

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXIII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1906.

No. 10

CONTENTS.

Epitome.....	PAGE 173
Leading Articles:—	
The International Crisis.....	174
The Responsibility for the Nanchang Murders.....	174
The Overcrowding Evil in Hongkong.....	175
The Chinese Slavery Cry.....	175
China and Tibet.....	176
The Famine in Japan.....	176
Hongkong Sanitary Board.....	176
Kowloon Bowling Club.....	176
Supreme Court.....	177
Marriage of the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C.....	178
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club.....	178
Royal Hongkong Golf Club.....	179
A Prisoner's Death.....	179
Chinese Surgery.....	179
Canton.....	179
The Telephone at Shanghai.....	179
Viceroy Chou-Fu and the Shanghai Municipality.....	179
The Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.....	180
A Great Raft for Shanghai.....	180
The Nanchang Massacre.....	180
The Development of Manchuria.....	181
The Withdrawal of Troops from Manchuria.....	181
Encouraging Commerce in the Philippines.....	182
New Banking Law in the Philippines.....	182
The Singapore Harbour Scheme.....	182
Company Reports:—	
China and Manila Steamship Co., Ltd.....	182
Shanghai Companies.....	183
Company Meetings:—	
The Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.....	183
Green Island Cement Co.....	183
The China Fire Insurance Co.....	183
Shipping Notes.....	183
Currency Problems in China.....	184
An Interesting Hongkong Banking Case.....	185
Hongkong.....	185
Commercial.....	186
Shipping.....	188

MARRIAGES.

On February 1st, at St. Peter's, Lutton Place, Edinburgh, by the Rev. E. C. Dawson, THOMAS ALEXANDER WEBSTER, second son of the late WM. CAMPBELL WEBSTER, accountant, Commercial Bank of Scotland, Arbroath, to MARIANNE MARRABLE (SISTY), elder daughter of the late JOHN FREDERICK THOMAS MARRABLE, accountant, General Post Office, Edinburgh.

On February 17th, at the British Consulate-General, Yokohama, and afterwards at the Union Church, Yokohama, HAROLD WENTWORTH DILLON SHALLARD of P. & O. Service Shanghai, and ADELAIDE EDITH PAGE, second daughter of WALTER FINCH PAGE, of Togonohama, Dzuishi, Kanagawa Ken, Japan.

On 5th March, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Reverend F. T. Johnson, M.A., HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, K.C., son of the late ARTHUR JULIUS POLLOCK, M.D., to LENA OAKLEY, daughter of the late HENRY OAKLEY, Esquire.

DEATH.

On February 28th, at Shanghai, THOMAS MACDONALD, Marshal of H. B. M. Consulate, aged 45 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of February 9th arrived, per the ss. Oceana, on Thursday, the 8th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The Newchwang branch of the Russo-Chinese Bank has been re-opened.

The population of Osaka—the Manchester of Japan—has doubled in ten years. It is now about 1,266,000.

The gunboat *Thistle*, which was last year placed on the auxiliary list of ships at Devonport, is to be commissioned on 27th inst. for service on the China Station.

In recognition of the valuable services rendered by Mr. F. Anderson as Chairman of Municipal Council at Shanghai a farewell dinner is to be held in his honour on the 14th inst.

In Hanoi, according to *L'Avenir du Tonkin*, a number of leading Chinese merchants in the town have abandoned their long silk garments and donned European attire, their queues also disappearing.

According to a Northern Chinese paper Sir Chentung Liang Cheng, the Chinese Minister to Washington, has wired to Peking that the United States now consents to allow all Chinese except coolies to come to the U.S.

The subject of debate at a recent meeting of the Seoul Y.M.C.A. was "That the mouth of a chicken is better than the tail of a bull." A report of the decision of the meeting on this momentous question is not yet to hand.

H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught has experienced variable and cold weather during his visit to Kagoshima. His Royal Highness arrived at Kobe on the 8th inst. in beautiful weather. A reception was held at the British Consulate.

The boycott of American goods would seem to have obtained a fresh start at Hankow, where it is stated indecent placards of various descriptions are abundantly posted about the native city representing Chinese being put in cangues on their arrival in America.

Prince Arthur of Connaught has been exceptionally favoured in Japan. Among his experiences his diary doubtless will contain records of severe shocks of earthquake which were experienced in the neighbourhood of Tokyo on the 23rd, 24th and 25th ult.

Waiving the deeply-rooted Chinese prejudice against a post-mortem examination, the Chinese officials at Nangochau asked the British Consular doctor to hold an autopsy on the body of the Chinese Magistrate Chiang. It was found that the oesophagus was injured and the windpipe severed. They are now awaiting the British Consul's report.

Nineteen high Japanese officials have been given English decorations. A Tokyo telegram in the *N.-C. Daily News* mentions that Marquis Saionji (the Premier), Count Inouye, Mr. Kato, and General Kuroki have all received the G.C.M.G. Messrs. Tanaka, Tokudaiji and Okazawa have received the G.C.V.O. Mr. Takahira has been made K.C.V.O.

In advocating the abolition of the two classes on the street cars of Manila the *Cable News* says: "The alleged demand for two classes is but the patrician abem of the chap at home who counted for little, and who in these far-away isles seeks to turn up his nose, believing that pose the most fashionable in nasal movements. Nonsense! Let's be Americans and plain people."

Mr. Siemssen has resumed charge of the German Consulate at Foochow.

In Foochow a plan is on foot among the leading merchants, headed by Mr. Jika Lin, to establish a bank. Mr. Kwok Chu-lin, his younger brother, is a millionaire merchant in Formosa, where most of the Lin family property is. It is expected that the bank will adopt the name of the Japan and China Bank, and will serve as a circulating medium between Southern China and Formosa.—*Industrial Review*.

It has been said that the *Dreadnought* is the most powerful battleship under construction, but as a matter of fact this statement is incorrect says a London contemporary. That honour indisputably belongs to the Japanese battleship *Satsuma*, which is already well advanced at Yokosuka. The *Satsuma* is a little larger than the *Dreadnought*, displacing 19,250 tons, and carries a slightly more powerful battery—ten 12-inch and twelve 4.7-inch guns, with armour of about the same thickness. The other details of the *Satsuma* are, however, unknown to all except the British Admiralty.

The new Shanghai Taotai, His Honour Jui Ch'eng, has taken over his seals of office from Yuan Shu-hsün, the time-expired Taotai of this port. His Honour Jui Ch'eng, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, comes to Shanghai from his previous post of T. otai of Kiukiang with a reputation for fair dealing and courteousness to all who have had anything to do with him, that encourages us to believe that Shanghai will greatly benefit by the change from the old régime, and that we may well look forward to a cessation of those constant bickerings that have marred the harmony of our relations not only with our Chinese fellow-residents but also with the mandarinates.

The general offices of Messrs. Smith, Bell and Company in the large building at the corner of Calles Carenero and Muelle del Rey, Manila, was the scene of a fire recently. Shortly before five o'clock an alarm was sent in and a chemical engine responded in double quick time. The fire-fighters found clouds of smoke issuing from the offices. The fire was confined to a room adjoining the shipping department, situated on the ground floor of the building, in which was stored oils, paints, and supplies for the fleet of Smith, Bell launches. Spontaneous combustion is believed the cause of the blaze. The prompt arrival of the department prevented what undoubtedly would have proved a disastrous fire. The damage to office fixtures and furniture was not serious. Books and records were not injured.

A Peking telegram in the *N.-C. Daily News* dated 27th Feb. states that the Chinese high officials have held a meeting to discuss the reported anti-foreign movement in China. One of them stated at the meeting that both Japan and the United States had expressed fears of another Boxer rising in China, but there are no symptoms whatever of any anti-foreign tendency in the country. Certain people in the provinces, however, are causing unfounded rumours to be spread and there have been some local riots between converts and others which have given rise to the apprehensions of Japan and the United States. The troops had been sent to the Philippines for quite a different reason, but telegrams had been sent to the Chinese Minister in Washington and those to other Powers, instructing them to declare that the reports of anti-foreign feeling in China are without foundation.

THE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS.

(Daily Press, 5th March.)

Notwithstanding the conflicting nature of the news which reaches Hongkong as to the proceedings at Algeiras, there can be little doubt but that a situation has resulted which can only be regarded with the deepest anxiety. The deadlock, serious in itself, would not be so grave were it not for the fact that the principals are both prepared for the natural consequence of a rupture. Ordinarily this would not occasion any apprehension, as most first-class Powers realise that the best way at present to preserve peace is to be prepared for war, but the temperament which both countries have recently displayed leads to a feeling of uneasiness as to the outcome. Although both France and Germany have indicated that they do not intend to abate the demands which they have formulated, and although diplomatic efforts have so far failed to effect a compromise, it cannot yet be said that the International Conference has proved a failure. Even were that the unfortunate end of the arbitration proceedings, there is always the hope that mediation on the part of some neutral Power would not be without avail. King EDWARD VII., with the qualities which have earned for him the title "Edward the Peacemaker," is the first to whom the nations will naturally turn their eyes in the circumstances, and it is reassuring to find the TSAR ranged on the side of peace and willing also to mediate between the two Powers.

Should such a contingency as many fear actually take place, it cannot be regarded other than a terrible calamity. The awful carnage which was associated with the hostilities between Russia and Japan have invested war with perhaps even greater horrors than ever it had before, and no one can contemplate its dire results with any feeling of equanimity. Apart from the slaughter, inevitable at the meeting of the combatants, and the suffering inflicted on the people of both countries, a rupture between France and Germany would considerably affect our port and its great shipping interests. The interchange of commodities would be retarded, certain traffic routes would be disorganised, and generally the trade essential to our prosperity would be injured by the greater uncertainties and risks which prevail in a time of war. So that on humanitarian and material grounds, we have reason to deplore the present situation and its possibilities and to indulge the hope that the delegates assembled in the little Spanish town, almost under the shadow of Gibraltar, will be able, ere they conclude their deliberations, to congratulate themselves on bringing the two great nations to an amicable understanding respecting the administration of Morocco which will not be incompatible with the claims of either and at the same time beneficial to the people over whose government the dispute has arisen. Such also must be the wish of all who are not under the influence of national jealousy—few of whom are to be found in our international community—and the present misunderstanding will not be regretted if it achieves a better relationship between the two peoples concerned, thus providing another safeguard for the peace of Europe and of the world.

There were 106 subscribers for 124 griffins at Shanghai. At a meeting held at the Race Club Grand Stand the subscribers decided to leave the limit of subscription to the purchasing committee. It was also decided "that all subscription griffins shall be raced by the drawer, and in the event of their changing ownership they shall only be raced as ordinary griffins."

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NANCHANG MURDERS.

(Daily Press, 6th March.)

Although we are never likely to know the details of the last disgraceful affair at Nanchang, the main facts are now very well known, and it is difficult to judge on which of the parties concerned rests the greater criminality. Had it been a matter where only Lazarist missionaries and the provincial government of Kiangsi suffered wrong, we might have felt very well content that the guilty parties, pretended preachers of the Gospel, as well as shuffling officials, had met their punishment. The affair cannot, unfortunately, be thus dismissed, because as the result of the misdeed the innocent have been involved in the punishment due only to the guilty. We are not by these words to be understood to have any desire or intention to condone the action of the officials in having made their appeal to mob law, any more than we are disposed to pass over the outrageous and criminal conduct of the Lazarist missionaries, whose misdeed in the first instance was the sole and entire cause of the whole proceeding. The main facts of the case are fortunately unquestioned. According to the practice of the Roman Church, to prevent misunderstandings, the various provinces of China have been allotted to different religious bodies, and that of Kiangsi was granted to the Lazarist Mission. Whether from the inferior social status of the individuals, or from a less stringent discipline, the Mission has of recent years been involved in more troubles with the Government, and has adopted a more unfriendly attitude towards the Protestant missionaries in the province, than all the other missions combined. Notwithstanding the false move of the Chinese Government in itself granting substantive official rank to the chiefs of the various missions, common-sense seems to have in the majority of cases prevented undue friction; but all common-sense seems to have been cast to the winds in the unfortunate affair at Nanchang. Assuming to himself a power by all international law reserved for the supreme government, the individual in charge of the mission seems to have made on his own account claims on the representative of the Chinese Government for alleged wrongs in the past, an indemnity for which formed part of his programme. The means adopted took very much the form of private war: the responsible, or supposed, official was invited to dinner for the alleged purpose of discussing the matter privately. Having explained his inability to act without the authority of his superiors, the chief of the mission proceeded to threats, and produced a paper which the officer was required to sign then and there; a recent example of a fellow officer who had been degraded because under somewhat similar circumstances he had submitted to personal insult, doubtless came uppermost in the chi-hien's mind, and apparently he made an attempt at suicide. Here the evidence as to what actually took place fails, but in the struggle somehow, whether to prevent the rash act or otherwise is not known, and we must give the missionary the credit of the doubt, the official got stabbed. This seems to have been the final act, for the missionary left the scene. The whole affair looked exceedingly like what a hundred years ago in England would have been held to be a case of highway robbery—in more recent times the title has been softened down to "holding up," and is occasionally practised on trains passing through the prairie districts of America.

Then comes in the equally inexplicable conduct of the Chinese officials, including in this case the Governor of the province in person. Governor Hsia's duty was simple: it was not for him to sit in judgment, that being of course reserved by treaty to the representatives of France, who would certainly have seen that the priest did not, in case criminality were proved, go without punishment. He was in his provincial capital, and certainly had sufficient force to arrest the delinquent and send him under escort to Kewkiang, but a day or a day and a half's journey, taking care, of course, that no undue violence were used. Instead of this he permitted the culprit to take refuge in the mission premises, while he or those about him inflamed the feelings of the mob always at hand to be aroused amongst the proletariat of a Chinese city. The consequence was to be easily foreseen: encouraged by the absence of the slightest attempt at control the mob, in the method of mobs from time immemorial, proceeded to plunder and destroy everything or person that came in their way; the perpetrator of the outrage was the first unfortunate who fell in their way, and he seems to have been given short shrift. But the evil passions of the mob had been aroused, and having tasted blood it did not care to stop. Unfortunately next door resided a man perfectly innocent, with his wife and family; it is not necessary to say anything more of him than that during his residence he had carefully avoided giving offence to people or government. His only crime was in fact that he lived next door. This, however, was sufficient in the eyes of a mob with its blood up, so his house was attacked and himself and his wife immediately murdered, while even the sight of two innocent little girls, his daughters, scarcely restrained the mob. One of the children was wounded so severely that she died the next day, the other, little more than an infant, probably excited some pity even in the hearts of a mob, and was spared. Too late for any useful purpose, and, shivering with fear, the incapable GOVERNOR, the day after the crime had been committed, took the step which he should have taken in the first instance, and sent his troops to defend the other foreigners. Even so, instead of putting down and taking measures to punish the guilty leaders he confined himself to sending the other foreigners who had done no wrong to anyone as prisoners out of the city. It may be quite true that for the priest LACRUZE, whose action really brought on the whole disturbance, there is no room for sympathy. He, a private individual, instead, if he had a wrong, of appealing to the arm of the law to put affairs right, preferred to take the way of violence and be the executor of his own self-made ideas of retribution. He may have had right or some shadow of right on his side in the first instance, but the use of violence in the assertion of a right capable of being remedied by legal methods, of course deprives him of any standpoint in any tribunal of justice in any part of the world. But the crime of the Governor, whose duty it was to see justice exercised has not even so much palliation. It is quite true that in a great measure his crime was the effect of craven cowardice, but that is hardly an extenuating circumstance; and strictly the GOVERNOR is as much answerable for the murder of LACRUZE, who, whatever his crime, had the right of trial, as of the perfectly innocent KINGHAM. Little more than a month ago we drew attention to the peculiarly Chinese evil of swarming, and the danger always pressing of their being made use of by officials as a foil to their own misconduct. We little expected that our

leader would so soon prove prophetic.

If the murders at Nanchang have the useful effect of showing the Chinese Government how detrimental to the best interests of China herself is the further continuance of the present system, and how dangerous has been the recent action of permitting an *imperium in imperio* to be established, it will have done some good to the country at large. The most remarkable thing about the affair is that this granting of substantive rank to an irresponsible body of men was not brought about by any pressure from without, but was simply the outcome of a desire to save itself the trouble of acting in a case of emergency. Rightly the experienced men who control the body of Protestant missions at once saw the impossibility of accepting the preferred boon without compromising the position of preachers of the Gospel; and flatly refused the proposal. It would be well for the interests of the Roman Church that it were as wise in its own behalf, and save itself in the future the disgrace of a repetition of the Nanchang atrocities.

THE OVERCROWDING EVIL IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 7th March.)

The subject of overcrowding in Hongkong again comes under public notice by the questions asked by Mr. SHELTON HOOPER at the meeting of the Sanitary Board yesterday and the replies thereto given by the President. Probably influenced by the special articles which last month appeared in the *Daily Press* under the title of "Hongkong and the Housing Question," Mr. HOOPER put a series of five direct questions to the Sanitary Authority, the answers to which corroborate the state of affairs disclosed by our correspondent, and prove that overcrowding is still the great evil that it was before the passing of the Public Health and Building Ordinance of 1903. That the Ordinance has had beneficial results in many directions no one will deny; but it has become apparent that the main object of the Legislature has not been achieved. Overcrowding, the prevention of which was one of the principal ideas of the Act, has not been in any way lessened, and we are still faced with conditions which urgently call for reform in the general interests of the community. The present uneasiness with regard to the prevalence of infectious diseases, which originate in filthy and insanitary surroundings, emphasises this fact, and show that the housing of the poorer people is a question which concerns not only the Chinese but all who reside in the Colony. When the facts contained in the questions and answers under notice are examined, they can only, it seems to us, lead to one conclusion, and that is, that legislation on the lines of the Ordinance of 1903 is inadequate. That Ordinance is at present enforced. Visits are paid to ascertain whether overcrowding does exist on certain premises. Tenants are summoned and fined. Yet there is no palpable diminution of the evil. The people are still found herding together in the same undesirable and disgraceful tenements, and not all the penalties contained in the Ordinance will drive them to seek better and ampler accommodation, for the simple reason that they cannot afford to pay higher rents which would be demanded for such houses. There, indeed, is the crux of the whole question—the poverty of the people and the high rentals. One direct result of the operation of the new Ordinance has in fact been to enhance rentals

of Chinese property, and the extent to which this has been done in the most densely-populated districts might form an interesting and instructive subject of inquiry by the Government.

It may be said that the rents in the outlying districts are cheaper than those in the central districts and yet houses are standing empty. Such may be the actual state of affairs, but from the native's standpoint the houses in those districts do not come up to his standard of value. With the industrial population convenience is as great a consideration as hard cash, and so it is that the overcrowded, evil-smelling den in the centre of the city, surrounded by its varying pleasures and attractions is preferred to the quieter and better tenement standing empty in the environs of the city. It was hoped that the low-level tramway would conduce to the decentralisation of the population, but we have it on the authority of the Sanitary Surveyor's last report that since the trams have been running there has been—assuming official estimates of the growth of the population to be fairly accurate—actually a decrease in the density of the population in the outlying districts, while in the central districts there has been more than a corresponding increase.

Inseparably connected with the same question is the abolition, or rather regulation, of the cubicles, which it was hoped would assist in the solution of the problem of overcrowding and at the same time secure healthier conditions for the housing of the people. That, as was shown by our correspondent, has also failed to attain the desired end. It has rather tended to make matters worse, for the people are still living as before, six or seven families in a flat, with the wooden partition which previously afforded them some degree of privacy replaced by verminous cloths and sacks. The cubicle has in this way been abolished, but the remedy which that measure was intended to apply has not resulted.

In conclusion, official information indicates very clearly that present methods are insufficient to prevent overcrowding, and if the Ordinance is not to remain practically a dead letter in this connection the authorities must consider what further measures may be taken to lead to the removal of this menace to public health and enable, or compel, the people to live under conditions which will be better for themselves and safe for the community.

THE CHINESE "SLAVERY" CRY.

(Daily Press, 8th March.)

What we took occasion to indicate when the subject of Chinese labour in the Transvaal was first pushed to the front in certain quarters in England is now recognised, namely, that the matter was dealt with simply with the view to party politics, and as a means of influencing a large section of the British public in connection with the prospective general election. Now that that has actually taken place, the manner in which the labour question in South Africa has been handled has become abundantly manifest. The prejudices of the working classes were played upon by making it appear that the Chinese labourers were an undue competition with "white labour," and a number of well-meaning persons who knew nothing of the actual facts were stirred up by the assertion that the employment of the Chinese was nothing more nor less than a system of slavery. Both these cries, if they could be kept up long enough, were calculated as likely to have considerable effect upon the elections, and the event has proved that this calculation was correct. The

Liberal Government was indeed so anxious to make full use of this appeal to popular feeling that it did not wait for the elections to come off to take definite action in the matter. Before the dissolution of Parliament, they actually went the length of issuing an order that Chinese emigration should be at once stopped. This hurried action, however, had very speedily to be modified. It was discovered (as might easily have been known from the first, if the slightest pains had been taken to ascertain the true position) that a summary prohibition of the emigration could not be effected without conflict with constitutional principles and incurring a risk of liability to damages in regard to such emigrants as had been arranged for. A further difficulty arose, namely, that such action amounted to an actual ignoring of the signature of the GOVERNOR of the Transvaal to licenses to import Chinese already issued. In regard to this latter point, Lord SELBORNE, the Governor, acted with unexpected promptitude, and plainly told the Home Government that if such a course were adopted, he would resign his office. In this, as it turned out, he was cruel only to be kind, and he really did the Government an excellent turn by pointing out to them in an unmistakable manner the false attitude in which they had placed themselves. A retreat was accordingly made from this untenable position, and they had to modify their declaration that they would put an end to Chinese immigration altogether to a statement that they would do so "as far as possible"—a very safe position to retreat to. But to this there was added an important rider, namely, that the matter was one which must be settled by the Transvaal, to whom responsible Government must be given without delay, and with whom the Home Government would not then interfere—a proposition so manifestly correct that the only regret is that it was not acted upon at an earlier stage of proceedings. To anyone who knew the state of the Transvaal as to internal government it must have been apparent that the claim which was made by those who were then members of the Opposition in Parliament to interfere in this matter was in essentials as unreasonable as it would have been to make such a claim if the Transvaal actually had representative government at the time. From the necessity of the position after the war, it was manifestly impossible at once to grant responsible government, but the greatest care was taken to consult the views of the public, and this had been done with respect to the Chinese as well as other questions. For the Home Government under such circumstances to go against the decision which had been arrived at by the GOVERNOR and which had been endorsed by the local semi-Representative Legislative Council, was as much an interference with the reasonable rights of the Colony to decide as to its own internal affairs as if it actually had responsible government at the time. One thing was apparent to all who knew anything about the Transvaal, namely, that the granting of responsible government (though a measure which must and would come in due time) ought not, upon all grounds of prudence, to be pressed forward unduly. But the old extreme Dutch Party, which is still powerful, were most anxious to have representative government as early as possible for precisely the reasons which made it dangerous to grant it until affairs had become more settled. This Party was shrewd enough to recognise their opportunity; and by their agents in South Africa and at Home kept up the cry against Chinese labour, being

perfectly aware that a permanent solution of the difficulty as they represented it could only be found in granting the Transvaal representative institutions. Events have proved that they calculated quite correctly. We now find this is exactly the position taken up by Sir HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN. He frankly announces that the difficulty must be settled this way, and that representative government being given to the Transvaal, the affair will become one for which the Imperial Authorities will be in no way responsible—thus arriving precisely at the point to which the astute Dutch leaders from the first intended to lead him.

But what becomes of the charge that the immigration system was one of slavery after this admission? If this were true, there is a ground, and a very just one, for the Imperial Government interfering not only in a Crown Colony but in any other Colony under British rule. The declaration that the matter can be left to the Transvaal is, therefore, an admission that the statements about slavery which were not only adopted but over and over again emphasised by Sir HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN are either grossly exaggerated or utterly unfounded. It would, however, seem that some of Sir HENRY's adherents are sensible of this weakness in the attitude now adopted. We find that Mr. HERBERT GLADSTONE in speaking at Harrowgate stated "the slave conditions of the Chinese have been improved owing to the attacks made upon the late Government, but if it were shown that the conditions still amounted to slavery, it would be the duty of the Imperial Government to see that the conditions made were such as could be tolerated by a Christian Government. The present Government had done something towards this end and would do more if they could." We should think so!

CHINA AND TIBET.

(Daily Press, 9th March).

The Anglo-Tibetan Convention of 1904 provides that the first instalment of the indemnity which the British Government exacted from the Tibetans as reparation for breaches of treaty obligations and for insults offered to and attacks upon the BRITISH COMMISSIONER and his escort in their progress to Lhasa shall be payable on Jan. 1st, 1906. We are to the present date without news that the payment has been made. The whole Convention, in fact, by the meddling of Mr. BRODRICK with the compact appears to be of as little value as the Conventions which preceded it. Though Tibet is recognised as a dependency of China, it is equally recognised that China's suzerainty is little more than a diplomatic fiction. It is a matter of common report that the Tibetans dislike the Chinese, and in the negotiations which took place as the British mission was proceeding to Lhasa, the contumacious disregard of the Tibetans for the authority of their suzerain was plainly shown. Had the Tibetan rulers accepted the advice of the Chinese Amban there would have been no indemnity to pay. It was, therefore, most essential that the Convention should be signed by the actual rulers of Tibet. As an additional guarantee for its fulfilment, the Chinese Government were required to sign an Adhesion Agreement, and though the Chinese Amban who was present at the signing of the Convention by the Tibetan Authorities expressed his personal acquiescence in the terms, the Convention has not met with the approval of the Peking Government, who have up to the present date withheld their adhesion. The British Minister at Peking has apparently

been pressing for a settlement of the questions in dispute, and events have taken a turn by the reported decision to transform Tibet into a province of China, under the control of a Viceroy. The formal incorporation of Tibet as a province of China by proclamation at Peking seems likely only to accentuate the difficulties; and the statement that "when the incorporation of Tibet as a province of China is accomplished there can exist on the part of England no cause for apprehension of hostile movements in that quarter," requires much more than mere assertion to justify its confident acceptance as an assurance. In our view it will afford neither a guarantee against hostile movements in Tibet nor an assurance that the old system of shutting out Anglo-Indian trade will not be renewed.

THE FAMINE IN JAPAN.

(Daily Press, 9th March).

Within the past few weeks we have published telegraphic news of Funds having been opened in London, Melbourne and now in Ottawa for the relief of the population in the three provinces of Japan stricken by famine. Upwards of a million people are wholly dependent upon the charity of the public for support until the next rice harvest. In Japan itself the people, notwithstanding the heavy calls made upon their purses in the shape of war taxes and charitable funds for the relief of distress occasioned by the war during the past two years, have responded nobly to these new appeals for assistance, and the Relief Funds have also been supported not only by the Foreign communities in Japan but by sympathisers in other Eastern cities, including Shanghai. By means of this timely assistance much suffering has been prevented and lives saved. A gentleman who has recently visited the afflicted districts and carefully inquired into the situation, writes to the papers an assurance that the appeals are based on well ascertained facts and do not exaggerate in the least; they "only fail in making real the wide extent and acuteness of the misery which obtains." Additional confirmation offers itself in an appeal made by officials in the Miyagi Prefecture to the Department of Agriculture for a grant of 260,000 yen, the estimated cost of food to support the sufferers in that prefecture during the three months of March, April and May. The gentleman above referred to states in his letter to the Press that the machinery is now in motion that will afford relief throughout the afflicted districts, but money is insufficient. "Millions of yen," he says, "must be expended to feed, clothe and carry the million and more destitute persons until the harvests can be gathered." That being the case we are sure no further words are needed to commend to public support the concert which LADY PIGGOTT is promoting, to be held by kind permission of H. E. the GOVERNOR at Government House on the 27th inst., with the object of adding to the fund at the disposal of the relief committee in Japan.

The Philippines Government has lost P1,500,000 as the result of the destructive abilities of the white ant. The property destroyed consists of a quantity of revenue stamps, a large number of them being of the P50 denomination. A committee was appointed some days ago by the Governor-General to look into the damage done and report thereon, and it has reported that the stamps are damaged beyond repair and only fit for the flames.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on March 6th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. F. Clark (president) presided, and there were also present:—Hon. Mr. W. Chatham; Dr. W. W. Pearce, M.O.H., Dr. Macfarlane, Lieut.-Col. Josling, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Mr. Fung Wa-chuo, Mr. Lau Chupak, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. F. J. Badeley and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

OVERCROWDING.

Mr. Shelton Hooper asked five questions, which with their answers by the President are given below:—

1. Whether steps have been taken to ascertain if there is any contravention of Section 47 of The Public Health and Buildings Ordinance in the city of Victoria.

Yes. During 1905 1,809 domiciliary visits were paid at night under warrant to ascertain whether overcrowding existed and in the case of 661 premises, overcrowding was found to exist.

92 prosecutions were instituted in respect to these overcrowded premises and fines amounting to \$2,743 50 were inflicted by the magistrate.

2. If there is such contravention, in which parts of the city does overcrowding exist?

The overcrowding is generally distributed throughout the city.

3. Why have the remedies prescribed by the Ordinance not been applied to prohibit such overcrowding?

These remedies have been applied.

4. Whether the necessary orders will be given to enforce the Ordinance in this respect? If not, why not?

The Ordinance is enforced.

5. Whether the Bye-law on overcrowding in Schedule B of the Ordinance has been carried out, and if so, within what limits?

This bye-law is being carried out throughout the city generally and in Kowloon. During last year notices stating the legal accommodation were painted in 4,053 floors.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The PRESIDENT explained that boundaries east and west had been suggested by the officers, within which are fresh offensive trades should not be allowed.

The plan was approved.

RAT RETURNS.

These returns showed that of 720 rats caught in the week ending February 24th 47 were infected, and of the 649 caught in the week ending March 3rd 38 were infected.

KOWLOON BOWLING CLUB.

The annual meeting of the members of this club took place on March 5th in the pavilion under the presidency of Captain Milroy. The financial statement, which was considered very satisfactory, revealed a credit balance of \$374.97, and showed that the debenture stocks had realised considerably more than the required amount. Mr. J. M. Henderson was elected president for the ensuing year. The election of vice-president produced a tie, both Mr. A. Ritchie and Mr. T. Robertson having an equal number of supporters. The latter gentleman withdrew and Mr. Ritchie was declared elected. Mr. David Gow was re-appointed secretary and treasurer, and the committee was constituted as follows:—Messrs. Kinross, W. Ramsay, MacDonald, Petrie, Baxter, Robertson and Richardson with the office-bearers and the retiring president as *ex-officio* members. The rules for the new tennis courts were submitted and after alteration approved. The meeting decided to have the electric light installed in the pavilion. Votes of thanks to the retiring office-bearers concluded the proceedings.

Shortly after one o'clock on Sunday afternoon fire was discovered to have broken out on the top floor of the Ewo Cotton Factory. The alarm was raised immediately and when the Fire Brigade from No. 2 Station appeared they learned that their services were not required. Mr. Shaw and his staff on the premises having succeeded in extinguishing the flames. Very little damage was done.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, March 3rd.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

A COMPLICATED CLAIM.

The case was concluded in which Nn Hang-hat sued the Yuen Sing firm for the equivalent in Hongkong currency of Tls. 5,166.792.

The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. B. Deacon (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. Harding (of Messrs. Ewens, Harston and Harding), represented the defendants.

When evidence had concluded counsel addressed the Court, and his Lordship, in summing up, said the plaintiff had told a most incoherent story which it was impossible for him to believe. Judgment would, therefore, be for the defendants with costs.

Monday, March 5th.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

SLEEPING PARTNERS FAIL.

Re Chan Sau-shek and Leung Wai-tong ex parte the debtor.

This public examination was continued by Mr. G. H. Wakeman (official receiver).

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Brutton, Hett and Goldring) and Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (of Messrs. Denny and Bowley) represented a number of creditors, while Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro watched the case on behalf of the debtors.

Chan Sau-shek was further examined by Mr. Goldring. He said the fire which damaged so much of their stock occurred in the Des Vaux Road premises when they were moving.

Mr. Goldring—I put it to you that there was nothing on the premises at all at the time of the fire?

Debtor—I took over the Fuk Loong shop and there was some stock in it, also half of the stock was removed from the shop which we were vacating.

Continuing, debtor said his original partner, Leung Tat-shan, died in 1899. He could not say whether Leung left any property, or whether he left a will.

His Lordship—You are not making very much out of this man; he has been away all the time, but I have no doubt he knows something about it.

Mr. Goldring—Is it not a fact you have a house in a western suburb of Canton?—No, I sold it.

Have you and Leung Wai-tong, a share in a soap dealer's business at Canton?—Leung Wai-fong has not. I had, but I sold it.

Leung Wai-tong, sworn, said he succeeded his father in the Kwong Fuk Lung. His father left no other property. Debtor did not take an active part in the management of the Kwong Fuk Lung; he lived at Canton. His father did not tell him the value of his share in the business, therefore, he had no idea what it was worth. Since he came into the share, he had drawn about \$5,000 from the firm.

Mr. Wakeman—But you have overdrawn \$5,300?—Yes.

Well, how much have you had altogether? That's what I want to know.—I don't know.

Didn't you understand the business was not paying during the time you were drawing money?—No. So long as it went on I thought I could draw money.

Continuing, debtor said he had formerly a share in a business at Canton, but had to sell to pay his debts. He had been doing nothing since 1904, and lived on the Kwong Fuk Lung business.

By Mr. Goldring—He could not remember, even approximately, how much money he drew from the firm since 1899.

Mr. Goldring—Do you mean to say you only drew \$5,300 from the firm in six years?—Yes.

Now be careful, please. Do you mean to tell me seriously that you only drew \$5,300 in six years?—Well, I don't know. My accountant told me so. All the money I drew I took to Canton to pay my family expenses.

Not to invest in business?—No.

You told us just now you invested money in the Kwong On Cheong?—Not the money drawn from the Kwong Fuk Lung.

Where did you get that money?—It belonged to my wife.

Have you another name?—Yes, Leung Pak-hong.

Has not Mr. Leung Pak-hong got a share in a firm at Canton?—You go and make inquiries.

That is just what I have done. Have you a family house in Canton?—Yes.

How much is it worth?—How can I tell you. I'm not the owner.

By Mr. Bowley—Debtor's father gave his family house to a clansman before he died. He had not one of his own, neither had he a share in the San Wo Tai of Amoy.

Mr. Bowley—Well, your father had?—You go to Amoy and make inquiries.

Mr. Bowley—Thank you; will you pay my passage? Do you know anything about the business of the Kwong Fuk Lung?—No. I only know how to draw money.

There is one thing you have never learned in your life, that is, how to pay money.—Well I would like to pay the money I owe, but if I haven't got it I can't.

I suppose you look upon Hongkong as a gold mine on which you can always draw, but never have to bring gold? Well, you see, when I find I have no more money to pay family expenses I can come down here to draw money.

As you take no active part in the business of the Kwong Fuk Lung, how do you pass your time?—Well, I walk about the streets, see friends and have a talk.

When did you first know the Kwong Fuk Lung couldn't pay its creditors?—Last year.

Are you prepared to pay back the \$5,300 overdrawn?—I haven't got the money.

What is your capital in the business?—I don't know, and have never taken the trouble to ascertain. So long as I got money from the shop I was satisfied.

Mr. Bowley—That's your perpetual refrain. Was the business insolvent last year?—I don't know.

Do you know you are liable to go to gaol for carrying on an insolvent business?—I did not know it was insolvent.

Do you allow your manager to pledge your credit to any extent?—Everything was left in the manager's hands.

According to your own account you are little better than an idiot?—I don't know.

Can you write?—Yes.

Can you add up accounts?—No. Have you got a degree?—No.

Well, you ought to have one.

Is it true or not that you owe the shop \$5,300?—The accountant told me so, and I made an affidavit to that effect.

Leung Chu, accountant to the Kwong Fuk Lung, was examined by Mr. Bowley.

How long have you been accountant to the Kwong Fuk Lung?—I was there when I was a boy.

At the end of each Chinese year do you close the accounts and make a balance sheet?—Yes.

Where is the balance sheet for the year before last?—It was lost when we removed, and I cannot remember whether it showed that the shop made a profit or a loss.

You don't expect anybody in Court to believe that?—Owing to my old age, you know, my memory is not so good as it was.

Do you credit each partner with interest on capital?—Every year they drew all their money out.

In your balance sheet did you put down the amounts overdrawn as assets?—Yes.

After further evidence was heard his Lordship closed the examination.

Mr. Almada—I wish to make an application for adjudication.

His Lordship—There is no objection, is there?

Mr. Wakeman—No, your Lordship.

His Lordship—All right. The order is granted.

Tuesday, March 6th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LD. v. P. LEMAIRE AND COMPANY.

The plaintiffs claimed from the defendants the sum of \$10,000 due on a bill of exchange.

Mr. H. E. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton, Hett and Goldring), represented the defendants.

Mr. Slade moved that the action be dismissed for want of prosecution, as the plaintiffs had failed to comply with an order made for discovery. In support of his motion Counsel read a lengthy affidavit filed by Mr. Hett.

Mr. Sharp said the plaintiffs had given the defendants the free run of the bank with regard to documents relevant to the case.

Mr. Slade—We have indicated what we wanted, and applied until we are tired of doing so. The documents they have disclosed to us are documents relevant to their own case. What we want are the documents relevant to our case. My learned friend is misinstructed when he says we have had unlimited opportunity of going into the bank and inspecting what documents we want.

The Chief Justice—It is more likely that the court will be able to appreciate the nature of the documents Mr. Slade wants if they are in possession of the facts of the case. I don't think allowing the other party free access to the books is what is meant by discovery.

Mr. Slade—I must ask that the action be dismissed for want of prosecution or stayed until the order for discovery has been complied with, as until we have had the discovery we ask, we are not in a position to go on. We wish certain papers relative to the affairs of Edwards, Piry & Co.

The Chief Justice—Mr. Sharp, that is a fair challenge!

Mr. Sharp—Yes, but we say we have filed everything relevant, and the practice clearly established on the point is that that is conclusive, unless it is proved to be untrue. Your Lordships will have to decide at some point in the case whether certain documents are or are not relevant; if you decide they are, we will have no objection to producing them. We have no desire to suppress anything.

The Chief Justice—Your affidavits and documents have been with regard to the case you put forward, but perhaps you have failed to appreciate the case of the defendants.

Mr. Sharp—When your Lordships have heard the case, if you decide that certain documents are relevant, they will be produced.

Mr. Sharp, in opening, said the Bank's case was a very simple one. It was suing the defendants on a bill of exchange which was accepted by the defendants and negotiated by the bank, and alternatively it was suing on a note in respect of the same debt. In 1902 for the first time the Bank of India in London began buying bills drawn by a firm called Showell & Co. in England, with which firm a Mr. Plant was connected. Piry and Company were the Hongkong agents of that firm, and these bills were drawn in respect of goods consigned by Showell & Co. to Piry. The documents for these goods were deposited with the Bank of India in London and forwarded to the bank here together with the bills. Until April, 1903, all went well and the bills were duly met by Piry, but apparently about that time Piry began to get into financial difficulties and to dishonour these bills—the first dishonoured bill bearing date of that month. The bank pressed Piry, and ultimately held these dishonoured bills and documents relating to the goods to the amount of something like \$50,000 or \$60,000. In August, 1903, Plant came to Hongkong to realise as much as possible in reduction of his own firm's liabilities. Mr. Playfair, the manager of the bank, was at that time absent on leave. Most of the goods ordered by Piry were under contract with Chinese. The bank, at Plant's request, arranged to let him have the document so that he might

try to get some taken up. On about 23th September Mr. Playfair returned to the Colony and continued pressing Plant for payment of the dishonoured bills, and lending him documents and bills of lading in order that he might get contracts taken up by Chinese purchasers. In December Plant was appointed liquidator of Piry, and his liabilities to the bank were gradually reduced until there was something like \$12,000 worth of contracts which Plant could not dispose of. All the time Mr. Playfair continued to press for the balance, and on the 17th December Plant went to the bank and informed him that he could clear off \$10,000, which he did on the following day. On the 16th March Plant called at the bank and informed the manager that the defendants wanted the bank to renew a bill. At first Mr. Playfair refused any renewal, saying he would enforce payment on due date either from the drawer or acceptor. Ultimately he consented to renew the bill until May 31st, a little over two months, and it was arranged that this should be done on condition that the defendant made a note directly payable to the bank, and Plant gave his personal guarantee of payment. The note was to serve a double purpose. It was to operate as a renewal of the bill by new acceptance and also as a note. The result of that was that thenceforward the bank had three distinct documentary securities for the debt. Mr. Sharp submitted it was perfectly clear that Plant was the defendants' agent. If there was any arrangement between the original partners of the bill for renewal, Mr. Playfair knew nothing about it.

The defence, as he understood it very broadly, was that the alteration which defendant made in the note invalidated it for want of a new stamp. With regard to the bill, they said it was intended that the bank should take security of the note in substitution for the security of the bill, and that the bank therefore could not recover from the defendants upon either. Counsel submitted that the bank was entitled to recover on the bill; that notwithstanding the alteration on the note they were entitled to recover on it, as the alteration was made for the purpose of carrying out the original intention of the parties. The bank would not have given time unless it felt that it was putting itself in a better position. Counsel then proceeded to read the evidence of Mr. Plant taken on commission, after which Mr. Playfair gave evidence on the lines of his counsel's opening statement, and the case was adjourned.

Wednesday, March 7th.

This case, was continued before the full court. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), appeared for the plaintiffs, the defendants being represented by Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. P. Hewett (of Messrs. Brutton, Hett and Goldring).

In cross-examination Mr. Playfair said he requested Plant to get a different note than the one he produced at the bank. The bill of exchange was given him in part satisfaction of money owing on the Piry bills. The drawers of the dishonoured bills were one of Plant's firms. The bills were drawn on Edwards, Piry and Company. He did not know whether the bills were payable to the National Bank of India; they were holding them as agents for that bank. The bills were documentary, the documents being deliverable until payment of the bills. Witness did deliver documents before payment in order to facilitate matters. The National Bank of India made a claim on his bank for exceeding instructions as their agents. The claim was disputed because the National Bank of China said they were acting as the other bank's agents to the best interests of all parties. Witness sent home £2,000 in settlement of the claim, but believed they accepted £1,250.

Mr. Slade—Was the claim of the National Bank of China on Plant disallowed?—It was disallowed because it was identical with the Bank of India claim.

The bill portion was identical?—Yes.

If you had not exceeded your instructions could any claim have been made against you in the matter?—No, but if we had not the loss would have been greater.

Was Piry and Company put into liquidation at your suggestion?—No.

Did you concur?—I did not object.

Did you guarantee the costs of a solicitor?—I agreed to pay his bill, but on the understanding that it was proceedings against creditors.

Did you guarantee the cost for liquidation proceedings?—I did not.

Did you pay them?—Yes.

Under the guarantee?—Yes.

At this stage Mr. Slade intimated that he was unable to proceed further until furnished with the documentary evidence he required, and the case was adjourned *sine die*.

Thursday, March 8th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (POISSON JUDGE).

AN ILLEGAL STRUCTURE.

The Hung On Chan firm sued the Tak Lee Loong to recover the sum of \$321.60, being as to \$701.60 amount paid to Messrs. Yuen Wo by the plaintiffs on behalf of the defendants for work done on premises at Nos. 80, 81 and 82, Connaught Road Central, and as to balance of \$120 for a plan.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. John Hasting's office) represented the defendants.

Mr. Kong Sing said the plaintiffs were the keepers of a Chinese boarding house, and about July last took over new premises. These houses were Chinese, and constructed in the ordinary way of such houses, each containing three upper flats, making in all nine flats. The plaintiffs were desirous of having these flats altered so that they might be used as a Chinese boarding house. With that view they engaged an architect to draw plans, and these plans were passed by the P.W.D. The defendants were then engaged as contractors and the plans handed to them with instructions that the work was to be carried out according to the plans. The contract price was \$2,125, and this was increased to \$2,225, of which \$2,140 had been paid by the plaintiffs. When the work was completed, the defendants notified the plaintiffs, and everything appeared to be all right. In a month or two afterwards, however, the P.W.D. inspected the buildings and found they were not constructed according to the plan, neither were they in compliance with the Buildings Ordinance. Notice was then given the architect, who, on inspecting the premises, found they were not constructed according to the plan he submitted. He then had another plan drawn, and to save expense had it drawn in such a way as to take in the work done.

His Lordship—The matter should be referred right to an architect.

Mr. Kong Sing—The architect has viewed the place.

His Lordship—I mean as to amount.

Mr. Kong Sing—I don't know whether my friend admits liability.

Mr. Dixon—My clients were not working according to a plan. The plaintiffs expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied with the way we did the work, and we heard nothing further about the matter until some six months afterwards.

His Lordship—It is clear the alterations have not been carried out as required by law.

Mr. Dixon—The instructions according to which we were to carry out these alterations are detailed in the agreement before your Lordship. Having carried out those instructions we are exonerated from all liability, even though they were not done as required by the Buildings Ordinance.

Mr. J. B. Harker, engineer in the P.W.D., was called to peruse the agreement between the parties. He said it was fairly explicit, and the details as before the Court authorised the defendants to put up an illegal structure.

His Lordship handed the agreement and plans before the Court to Mr. Harker and asked him to report as to whether the work was carried out.

The case was adjourned.

The examination in Scottish history promoted by the St. Andrew's Society took place on Mar. 8th at the City Hall. Only seven candidates came forward. Mr. W. D. Braidwood is to adjudicate on the papers.

MARRIAGE AT HONGKONG

POLLOCK—OAKLEY.

The marriage of the Honourable Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Miss Lena Oakley was celebrated on the 5th March at St. John's Cathedral, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion, in the presence of numerous friends of the bride and bridegroom. The Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., officiated, and the Chief Justice, Sir Francis Pigott, gave the bride away. The bride wore a dress of soft Liberty satin with Honiton lace, and a veil worn over a wreath of orange blossom. The bridesmaids were Miss Duffie Dickson, Miss Eileen Hastings and Miss Mabel Dickson, and their dresses were made of crepe de chine. They wore Leghorn hats trimmed with white silk ribbons and carried crooks with bunches of violets. The Honourable Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary, acted as best man. The service included the following hymns:—"The Voice that breathed o'er Eden" and "O Perfect Love."

The reception was held at Government House through the kindness of His Excellency, Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., and was largely attended.

The bride went away in a white cloth costume with a Marten stole, and wore a green hat trimmed with shaded feathers.

The bride and bridegroom were the recipients of numerous handsome presents.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

TENTH CLUB RACE.

CHAMPIONSHIP—Sunday was a day we have not often seen of recent years in Hongkong—bright sun, with a nice steady breeze from almost due East, and little more than a ripple on the water. The course was past Fairway Buoy, Trocas Rocks, Kowloon Rock and Channel Rock, all starboard. This was *Dione's* day, and though she mistook both the fairway buoy and Trocas Rock buoy she won very easily. Points to date: *Vernon*, 64; *Dione*, 50; *Elspeth* 32. Times:—

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Dione</i>	1	34	37
<i>Vernon</i>	1	41	00
<i>Elspeth</i>	1	48	41

ONE-DESIGN—A very bad start was made in this class, but *Kathleen* went ahead, keeping her lead till near the fairway buoy, where both *Min* and *Colleen* caught her up. Having the inside berth, however, she managed to get wind first, but her mainsheet being slow in coming in, *Min* very cleverly cut between her and the buoy and took the lead. No variation took place on the reach across to Trocas, but in rounding the buoy *Kathleen* soon forged ahead, and established a long lead on the beat to Kowloon Point. At Kowloon Rock *Kathleen* was 1½ mins. ahead of *Min*, with *Bonito* close to her, while *Colleen* had fallen far to the rear. On the beat to Channel Rocks *Kathleen* still further increased her lead and was 3½ mins. ahead of *Min*. This race leaves the Championship in this class in a very exciting condition, the marks being:—*Min* 28; *Kathleen*, 27; *Colleen* 27; *Bonito*, 22. Times:—

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Kathleen</i>	1	56	23
<i>Min</i>	2	00	28
<i>Bonito</i>	2	01	35
<i>Colleen</i>	2	05	27

HANDICAP CLASS.—In this class the Championship looks almost certain to go to *Chanticleer*, though *Gloria*, if sailed as well as she has been lately, should push her close. Marks:—*Chanticleer*, 57; *Gloria*, 43; *Alannah*, 36; *Doreen*, 13. Times:—

	H.	M.	S.	H.	M.	S.
<i>Gloria</i>	2	9	43	2	0	43 (1)
<i>Chanticleer</i>	2	9	14	2	4	14 (2)
<i>Alannah</i>	2	5	17	2	5	7 (3)
<i>Doreen</i>	2	21	42	2	10	42

The plague return for the week ending 3rd March gives a total of eight cases and seven fatalities. The aggregate since the beginning of the year is 36 cases and 34 deaths. Sunday and Monday brought an addition of eight to the total number of cases of outbreak, and all proved fatal.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

The monthly competition for the Captain's Cup, the last of the series for the season 1905-6, was held at Happy Valley on the 6th March. Out of an entry of 34 the following cars were returned:—

* Mr. H. Wilson	...	97	—	18	=	78
Mr. M. A. Murray	...	85	—	5	=	81
Lt.-Col. A. E. Aitken	...	86	—	3	=	83
Mr. T. S. Forrest	...	80	+	4	=	84
Mr. C. W. May	...	87	—	3	=	84
Mr. G. M. Harston	...	97	—	13	=	84
Mr. J. C. Steen	...	106	—	17	=	89

*Winner of Cup and Pool.

The monthly winners of the Captain's Cup, presented by Mr. C. A. Tones, for the season now closing, are as follows:—Mr. H. W. Robertson, Mr. W. G. Ross (twice), Mr. J. Johnstone, Mr. A. D. Galloway, Mr. C. H. Gale, Mr. W. D. Kraft, Mr. E. V. D. Parr, Mr. C. M. G. Burnie, Dr. W. L. Martin, Mr. B. Miller, Mr. H. Wilson.

These will, according to the conditions of the competition, play off a tournament for the final possession of the Cup

A PRISONER'S DEATH.

An inquiry was conducted on the 7th March at the Magistracy by Mr. F. A. Hazeland and a jury composed of Messrs. Frederick Carl Kendall, Eric Grant Smith and Christian Scott into the circumstances attending the death of Kwok Kee, who died in Victoria Goal yesterday morning.

Mr. Pierpont, chief warder in Victoria Goal, deposed that the deceased, aged 26, a man of no occupation, had been received into prison on 12th September, 1905, sentenced to one year's hard labour and six hours in the stocks for disobeying an order of banishment.

An assistant hospital warder said he took over charge of deceased the previous night, when he seemed in his usual health, but he suddenly collapsed and died yesterday morning at 5 o'clock.

Dr. Moore said deceased had been admitted to the hospital on February 27th suffering from consumption and heart disease. He made no improvement and died as stated. The post-mortem examination of the body showed the usual appearances produced by the disease.

The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

CHINESE SURGERY.

There was a large gathering at the Y.M.C.A. rooms on 3rd March to hear Dr. J. D. Thomson lecture on this subject.

The doctor said the Chinese made a distinction between internal and external medicine, the external medicine being what we call surgery. As far back as several hundred years before the birth of Christ there was an eminent Chinese surgeon who believed in extensive operations and amputations, but he was almost alone, as no one else ever attempted to do so much as cut off a finger. The Chinese would never cut away a humour, neither would they amputate a limb even though leaving it on meant that death would certainly result. The chief aims of the native doctor in surgery were the use of the needle and counter irritation, the latter including what is ordinarily termed massage, and burning of the flesh. The lecturer had seen cases where small children were treated by this burning process for diseases of the stomach and bowels. The knowledge of anatomy among the Chinese was absolutely nil; they had an idea that the heart and stomach were connected, and that the pit of the latter was the seat of thought. They also were of opinion that the gall bladder was the seat of boldness, and that from it all schemes originated. The great difficulty in the way of introducing the science of Western medicine into China was the native's inborn hatred of the foreigner; he distrusted the latter's methods, and preferred his own cures. As an illustration of this Dr. Thomson said that of some 23 graduates of the Hongkong College of Medicine, not one had settled in China. An obstacle which the Chinese doctor educated according to Western science met was the

opposition of the native doctors, who stirred up the people against the Western trained man. The speaker had known some Chinese communities to have had quite a riot over the incoming of a doctor educated in Western science, such riots being promoted by native doctors who feared for the stability of their practice.

The lecturer had on exhibition quite a number of Chinese medicines and explained to his hearers the virtues thereof and for what maladies they were regarded as a panacea.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT].

March 5th.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

One hundred thousand copies of the 20 conditions which were concluded on the 28th ult. for inviting people to subscribe for shares have been printed. The Railway Company are now distributing them.

The local students have subscribed for 400 shares. It is expected that they will take a great many more.

Three of the thieves arrested for larceny at the French Consulate last month and sent to the Nam Hoi magistracy to be dealt with, confessed at the trial that he had stolen silk before from Messrs. Griffith & Co. This firm has now through the H.B.M.'s Consul-General sent a communication to the Nam Hoi magistrate asking him to trace the receiver of the stolen silk, to punish him, and recover the booty.

DEATH.

Mr. A. Hartley, late electrical engineer of the China Light and Power Co. at this port, died in the China Hospital at 9 p.m. yesterday, the 4th inst. He was suffering from a very bad attack of dysentery. The funeral took place to-day at 4 p.m.

Canton, March 7th

THE VICEROY AND OPIUM SMOKERS.

Viceroy Shum dislikes opium smoking. He has sent an official dispatch to the Provincial Treasurer, the Provincial Judge, and the Salt Commissioner instructing them to make an investigation and to report to him any expectant officials who are known to practice opium-smoking.

A JAPANESE SHOW STOPPED.

A Japanese subject who was exhibiting a cinematograph at Chan-chuen, has been ordered to stop the performances. The Viceroy has also instructed the local authorities to forbid the people from renting their houses to foreigners.

THE REBELLION IN KWANGSI.

Viceroy Shum has received a telegram from the Governor of Kwangsi stating that the rebels in Wuchow and Ping-Lok districts are increasing daily and requests the Viceroy to raise 100,000 taels and remit same to him immediately for military purposes to enable him to quell the rising.

SEQUEL TO A DISAGREEMENT WITH THE VICEROY.

It is reported that the Provincial Judge Sham is about to be transferred to Chihli as Provincial Treasurer. It appears that he disagreed with Viceroy Shum regarding railway matters and recently memorialized the throne asking for permission to resign his post and to retire from official life. Judge Sham, being one of the favourites of the Empress Dowager, was not permitted to resign and is now being sent to Chihli Provincial on promotion.

DR. SHELBY.

Dr. W. Shelby, late of the Yuet-Han Railway Co., leaves for America to enjoy a well-earned holiday. During his stay in Canton he has made many friends both amongst foreigners and Chinese, and will be much missed by both.

WHOLESALE KIDNAPPING.

A notorious kidnapper, named Lam Kai-tung has at last been caught. A few days ago he kidnapped 50 women, boys, and girls from the Ko-chow district and brought them down to Canton in a junk to dispose of them at his leisure here. Information having reached the police Lam was arrested at the Ng Sing Moon where his junk was moored. He has been locked up in the Nam-Hoi gaol. It is said that Lam has captured and sold hundreds of women, boys and girls in his day. His present freight

of human beings has been distributed among charitable institutions who will send them back to their native villages.

THE TELEPHONE AT SHANGHAI.

The Shanghai Mutual Telephone Company has been asked by the Municipal Council that in return for the privilege of the use of the public streets for its poles and wires, the Company issue to the Council, free, a certain proportion of dividend-bearing scrip representing an addition to the capital of the Company. The General Manager of the Company has replied in a letter which points out that there has been practically no profits made by the Company on the telephone business itself. Nevertheless the directors feel that the public should derive some benefit from telephone subscribers even if the subscription would have to be raised and only asked that the above fact be taken in consideration before the Council formulates its demands, always bearing in view that the lower the cost of the service can be kept the more universally useful it will become. The Council has replied by suggesting that 1,000 new shares of Tls. 40 each be added to the capital of the Company and issued to the Council under an agreement drawn on the lines of that recently made with the Shanghai Waterworks Company.

The Telephone Company has agreed to hand over to the Municipal Council 1,000 fully-paid-up shares in return for the privilege of the use of the public streets for its poles and wires, but the Company asks that the new contract should be fixed at thirty years, and for the revision of some of the conditions. They want in the first place to insert a clause providing that any subscriber whose telephone has been used so as to annoy or abuse other subscribers or servants of the Company shall be liable forthwith to have his telephone disconnected and removed. The Company further seeks to alter its scale of charges explaining that with an increasing number of subscribers the Company has to meet an increasing cost of service. As a practical demonstration of this the General Manager mentions that in the early days of the service at Shanghai one operator could comfortably attend to the calls from 200 subscribers; now one can hardly attend to 100, and in the new Exchange that is going to be built such provisions will have to be made as will allow only fifty subscribers to each operator. There are over 2,000 subscribers now in Shanghai. During 1905 more than 700 applications for service were received. It is proposed that the charge of Tl. 50 should remain in force while the subscribers do not exceed 2,500; and proposals are made for progressive increase when the subscribers exceed that figure. The General Manager calculates that by the time the franchise is finished 30,000 subscribers will have to be provided for.

VICEROY CHOU-FU AND THE SHANGHAI MUNICIPALITY.

The Viceroy of Nanking recently sent to the municipal council through the medium of the senior Consul the following proclamation to be posted in the International Settlement:—

The Shanghai Municipal Council is in its nature an institution provided for out of funds obtained from Native and Foreign merchants and people, in other words, a Police Department under joint Chinese and Foreign management, having for its proper object the preservation of order and the promotion of Commerce. Only, the leaders of Chinese interests being scattered, they have not concerned themselves with affairs or mutually exchanged views, with the result that many mistakes have been made. During my visit to Shanghai I received Chinese and foreign officials and merchants, and found them all desirous of concord and co-operation; and I have already ordered the local officials to unite with the heads of the native Association in dealing by proper negotiation with all questions which arise, and to do all with the object of promoting commerce and guaranteeing permanent security. Any matters which come up for discussion with the Municipal Council must be treated in a spirit of compromise and amity, so as to secure mutual understanding and support. Thus commerce will continue to increase and the people will not be beguiled by idle

rumours into reckless demonstrations of ill feeling. The officials and leaders have authority to arrest and bring to justice any persons found to be spreading abroad rumours. It is my earnest desire that the people and merchants may carry on their business peaceably and contentedly, not giving heed to empty talk, or indulging in outbursts of anger. In this way Chinese and foreigners will be at rest, and together enjoy the benefits of peace.

The Chairman of the Municipal Council in acknowledging receipt of the document, wrote:—"The Council is not informed whether a translation of this document has received the attention of the Consular Body, but would point out that its terms are such as to preclude it from being posted in the Settlement and should properly form the subject of protest and correction.

"While certain of the utterances contained in this proclamation are unobjectionable, the Council entirely objects, on behalf of the foreign community, to a statement such as that contained in the opening paragraph of the document, namely, 'that the Shanghai Municipal Council is in its nature an institution provided for out of the funds contributed by natives and foreigners, or in other words, a Police department under joint Chinese and foreign management.' There are other objectionable features in the proclamation, but the Council trusts that the above will be sufficient to justify the Consular Body in requesting the Nanking Viceroy to withdraw the document entirely. It is to be observed that its text has been published in the native press, and if such statements by a high Chinese official are allowed to pass unchallenged, it is inevitable that a serious misconception of the true situation must be created in the minds of the Chinese community.

THE SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the annual meeting of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce Mr. W. D. Little presided.

The Chairman, in the course of his address, said:—"You will observe that our membership is somewhat larger than in the previous year—127 against 116—but it is not in my opinion as large as it should be. There used to be an idea that membership was only for princely houses and large firms. That is a mistake. All firms of repute, large or small, in any trade are welcome. I notice the law trade—they frequently apply to us for information—is not largely represented on our list of members. Our meeting to-day is a full month earlier than the meeting last year and some two months or more earlier than "custom," our endeavour being to get our report in your hands as soon as possible after the close of the year. I have, therefore, only eleven months' work to refer to to-day. Coinage and Conservancy matters continue to have our careful attention. I believe that the Chinese Government is really endeavouring to tackle the former question. Conservancy Board arrangements have given some cause for anxiety and we have already addressed one letter to the Senior Consul. The Senior Consul in reply to our letter of the 7th February informed us that appointments to the Conservancy Board "did not come within the province of the Consular Body." I note from the papers that that eminent engineer, Mr. de Rijke, in whose ability this Chamber has every confidence, arrived by a recent mail. What arrangements he has made or whether they are progressing I do not know. I heard, unofficially, that he has stipulated that the appointment of assistants should be in his own hands. I may here refer to an important matter:—that of jetties for landing and shipping of cargo. Shanghai is a trading place and the requirements of merchants and traders have our first consideration. Adequate facility at Municipal jetties is of the utmost importance, directly or indirectly, to all residents. I am glad to be able to supplement the information in our report referring to the present inadequate accommodation, with the statement that the Municipal Council have completed a scheme, which I understand the Customs and Harbour authorities are likely to support, for extended facilities, and that the cost of the new pontoons has been included in the

Municipal budget for 1906. During the past year Mr. Leslie J. Cubitt, who so ably filled the post of Secretary for some years, resigned. Mr. L. E. Canning was appointed Acting Secretary, and after so serving some months satisfactorily was promoted Secretary. This appointment, however, requires your confirmation.

Mr. L. J. Cubitt suggested for the consideration of the incoming committee that some of the satisfactory balance be devoted towards the acquisition of an adequate reference library. They had certain standard works of reference but the might profitably be added to.

The Chairman said the suggestion was a good one and the Secretary would make a note of it.

The Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and accounts for the year 1905. Mr. Stern seconded, and the resolution was carried.

The Chairman said he took it the passing of the report confirmed the appointment of Mr. Canning as Secretary. He proposed that the Secretary be instructed to collect £1s. 20 instead of £1s. 30 from members as subscription for 1906.

Mr. A. McLeod seconded, and the resolution was carried with one dissentient.

The Chairman said the next business was to pass the scale of commissions and brokerages. The Committee was asked some time ago to revise the official Chamber of Commerce scale. The last published scale was 1888. The list had been in the hands of members some days. Since it was issued Messrs. Sander, Wieler & Co. had written in reference to one item. They said:—

"We are in receipt of your scale of commissions and brokerages for adoption, and find that you omitted in this scale the rates of commissions and brokerages for the sale of steamers. This would probably come under the heading of 'on charters effected' 5 per cent, and, 'brokerage on charter effected' 1½ per cent, and we would recommend to add the words 'and sales,' so that the position would read 'on charters and sales effected' 5 per cent, and 'brokerages, charters and sales effected' 1½ per cent."

The Chairman said that was the only comment made on the list. He would be glad to hear the remarks of any member on the subject.

There being no remarks the Chairman proposed that the scale of commissions and brokerages as circulated, but with the addition made in the letter of Messrs. Sander, Wieler & Co., be adopted. Mr. W. J. Gresson seconded, and the resolution was carried.

Mr. Cubitt proposed that the Committee be elected as follows:—Messrs. E. de Bavier, C. Brodersen, L. Bridou, Sir C. Dudgeon, W. J. Gresson, H. E. R. Hunter, J. N. Jameson, H. R. Kinneer, A. Korff, A. M. Marshall, H. W. Robertson, and J. Stern.

Mr. C. Iburg seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Chairman invited discussion on any subject which any member wished to bring before the meeting, but the only further business done was the passing of a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

A GREAT RAFT FOR SHANGHAI.

Considerable interest, says a Manila paper, will be manifest in the towing from San Francisco, Cal., to Shanghai, China, of the largest raft of logs ever constructed. This raft will contain 10,000,000 feet of spars and piling. It will be valued at \$60,000, and the logs will be bound together by 120 tons of iron chain. Several powerful sea-going tugs will tow the raft by means of a six or eight-inch hawser. About 9,000 miles will be covered in the distance from the Pacific coast to China. The pine piles are from 80 to 110 feet long. They are arranged in such a manner that the abutting end of one pile is placed opposite to the middle of the adjacent pile, after the fashion of brick laying. The raft is cigar-shaped, showing from seven to ten feet above water. Great chains hold the raft together, and each chain is complete in itself and the ends are shackled on a turnbuckle on the top of the raft.

Mr. T. C. Ramsey, who was charged at Weihaiwei with having received a quantity of army blankets, well knowing them to have been stolen, has been acquitted.

THE NANCHANG MASSACRE.

The accounts of the deplorable murders at Nanchang are best given in the following form:—

THE CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES' VERSION.

This version is given by our French contemporary *L'Indo-Chine* as follows:—"The information which we have received from the best sources, differs very much from that which has appeared up till now, above all in the Chinese press. The telegrams that the unfortunate missionaries had yet time to send to their superiors during the 23rd inst. make it known that, invited to a dinner at the mission to settle amicably certain matters in dispute, the sub-prefect, doubtless in fear that he would not be able to settle it in the way wished by the Chinese authorities, and would thus lose face with his superiors, committed suicide by cutting his throat. On his part the Governor declares that, having been invited to dinner at the mission and in the course of the discussion which took place for the adjustment of the affairs of Tang-pou and of Chekiang, the sub-prefect was wounded by a knife, and that, overcoming his pain, he had written with his own hand that there had been no alternative before him, except suicide, and that, moreover, the people of the mission had struck him.

Immediately on the suicide at the mission, the people, as excited as those who are acquainted with Chinese manners can imagine, accused the missionaries of having killed the sub-prefect, and it was this view that found expression in the telegrams addressed to the Chinese journals of Shanghai by their correspondents at Nanchang. On Sunday about 10 a.m. under the influence of the rumours spread in the city, the crowd flung themselves on the mission, where they delivered over to massacre the missionaries and the professing brothers, and destroyed the building indicated above.

The Sisters of Charity and three Fathers named Salavert, Rossignol, and Martin were able to save themselves and escape to Kiukiang.

The Governor of Nanchang, who had promised the Waiwupu to assure the defence of the mission, allowed himself to be swayed by the mob.

THE NATIVE ACCOUNT.

The *Sinwénpao* (as translated by the N.-C. Daily News) states that the district magistrate of Nanchang, Chiang Chao-t'ang, was conferring with the French Roman Catholic priests under instructions of Governor Hu Ting-kan of Kiangsi, when he was assaulted and wounded by three Roman Catholic priests of one of whom the Chinese name is Wang Kuo-an. The priests wished to compel the magistrate to sign his consent to three of their demands, viz:—(1) the payment of heavy indemnity for some previous riot; (2) the degradation or cashiering of certain members of the Nanchang gentry hostile to the Roman Catholics; and (3) the release of certain converts who were in confinement for being concerned in breaking the law. These demands the magistrate firmly resisted even when threatened with injury by the priests who finally killed the official for refusing to be coerced. The same paper further states that the conduct of the priests was generally deprecated by the converts of Nanchang, and that Governor Hu Ting-kan sent four hundred troops to guard the mission premises, in the first place to prevent the populace from trying to get revenge on the Roman Catholics for the death of the magistrate, and on the other hand to prevent the escape of the priests charged with killing that official. Finally, in commenting upon a report circulating amongst the Roman Catholic converts here that "probably magistrate Chiang Chao-t'ang, seeing that he could not get what he wanted, had stabbed himself in his anger," the *Sinwénpao* declares that such a statement is absurd on the face of it, as it was ridiculous that the magistrate could have gone armed with a knife to the dinner, since such instruments are conspicuous by their absence in any Chinese banquet.

AN ALLEGED OFFICIAL ACCOUNT.

The astonishing and very unconvincing extract, which we print below, from what the N.-C. Daily News is assured is a translation of an official report sent by Viceroy Chou Fu at Nanking to the Waiwupu and by them

March 10, 1906.]

CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

181

transmitted to the French Minister and so to the French Consul-General at Shanghai, will, as our contemporary remarks, scarcely carry public knowledge of the affair any further, but is not without interest:—

"On the 29th day of the first moon in the town of Nanchang itself, the Catholic missionary Lacruche had invited the sub-prefect Chiang to a dinner, without ceremony, to discuss the religious matters of Taupou and an affair between Catholics and Protestants which had occurred at Yukiang.

"On both sides there was discussion about these subjects. A knife and a pair of scissors were taken, and it was said that the death of the sub-prefect would at once settle the matter. The sub-prefect then took up the small knife on the table to commit suicide, but the pain prevented him from completely killing himself. He states that someone then enlarged the wound with two cuts with scissors, and these latter wounds are very serious. The sub-prefect is not able to speak to tell more at present, but when he regained consciousness he himself wrote these details."

It would appear from other reports that Wang is the Chinese name of Père Lacruche.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

The Rev. Dr. Spencer Lewis (of the Methodist Episcopal Mission) Nanking, has sent the following account to the *N.-C. Daily News*:—

Having been present in Nanchang at the time of the riot of the 25th of February, I will venture to give you an account of the same. I arrived at Nanchang on the evening of Thursday, 22nd February, at about the hour when occurred the unfortunate affair between the French priests and the Nanchang magistrate. While there are different stories, the reports agree that the magistrate was invited to a feast by the priests for the purpose of talking over unsettled questions arising from a former riot or riots. The outcome was that the magistrate received two wounds in his neck. The people say that the wounds were produced by a priest, the priest says they were self-inflicted. When the provincial judge, with other officials, arrived upon the scene, he proceeded to take down the evidence of the wounded man, who, being unable to speak, wrote that he had been assailed by a French priest whose Chinese name is Wang. This, I may say, is the only version of the affair which came to our ears through Christian or non-Christian sources during the nearly three days which elapsed before the breaking out of the riot. That the people believed this, and that this belief led to the riot, there can be no question.

The priests, on the other hand, claim that the magistrate retired to a room alone and committed suicide, or attempted it. One rather incredible story is that the suicide was premeditated, that the magistrate had an understanding with his attendants that when he had committed the deed and called out, they were to batter down the doors and rush in. One is inclined to doubt that there was either premeditated suicide or assault. The fact seems to be that the matters of difference were such as had produced much friction. If to this was added much wine drinking there might ensue an excitement leading to the unfortunate result.

Of course there was much excitement throughout the city, and no little apprehension on our part that a riot might take place. This was especially the case when on Saturday evening there was handed to us a printed notice of a mass meeting to be held the next morning at ten o'clock to consider the deceitful stabbing of the Nanchang magistrate by the French priest. To this meeting were invited all classes, from officials down. The purpose was to consider measures to prevent China from being treated with contempt by other countries, to get back the powers of their Government, etc. It was to be a deliberative assembly, and there was to be no resort to violence. The notice was signed by the whole body of students.

We wired to the American Consul-General at Shanghai of the meeting, urging adequate protection, and wrote to the foreign office in Nanchang, protesting that if such a meeting was held it might result in a riot, which, once begun, could not be easily stopped. We also sent two men to the meeting to report to us the

proceedings. From them we learned that a student attempted to address the crowd, stating the object of the meeting, and that there was to be no resort to violence. This was not what the crowd had come together for, and this was answered with cries of, "Ta. Ta." "Beat, Beat," quite drowning the voice of the speaker, and making it impossible for him to be heard. From this on the confusion increased, ending with smashing of the chairs and tables, and a rush for the Roman Catholic place. As was feared, the mass meeting proved the rendezvous and starting place for the mob, and the officials had sent no soldiers to the meeting to prevent this.

When the mob reached the Catholic place, the soldiers who were on guard fired a volley of blank cartridges, at which the mob made a rush, and there was no further pretence of defence. The place was set on fire, and the priests, attempting to escape, were seized, killed, and their bodies thrown into a pond, with exception of one whose escape seems little less than marvellous. He was the only one of the seven foreign priests and teachers there who escaped, and he had received several wounds about the head and was half covered with mud and water when some soldiers succeeded in rescuing him.

There was another Roman Catholic place outside the city, whose destruction speedily followed, but no lives were lost there. A priest lay there sick of typhoid fever, and another priest, who lived outside the city, took him and carried him away to the house of a convert. He has since died after reaching Kiukiang, his death either caused or hastened by what he passed through. There were also five French nuns at this place.

There were three Protestant missions in town, the Brethren, the China Inland, and the Methodist Episcopal. The missionaries of the Brethren mission were Miss Warr, living by herself, and Mr. and Mrs. Kingham and two children, living only two or three minutes' walk from the Catholic place. The most of the Methodist Episcopal missionaries lived a long distance away from the Catholics and the mob did not reach them. We hear that the Kinghams were urged to leave two or three times before they attempted to do so. They were beaten to death, stripped, and the body of Mrs. Kingham thrown into a pond. Mr. Kingham lived for a few hours afterwards, and the older child till the next day. The younger child was saved by a soldier, who caught her, and covering her with his clothing took her to the house of the amah. The soldiers came to Miss Warr, and surrounding her, took her to their camp. The crowd were throwing stones into the China Inland place, but word being sent, the soldiers came on the run, and the two families were also taken to the camp.

The Methodist Episcopal missionaries were so far away that they were able to save quite a little food and clothing after they heard of the riot. Some officials came and took them first to a mint near by. From there they were put on to a boat, and just before dawn to a steam launch which the Governor had chartered to take away the fugitives. The other fugitives were brought on board the launch at different times in the night, and next morning at eight o'clock a start was made for Kiukiang, which was reached at 10.30 on Tuesday morning. Mr. Quirnbach, of the M. E. mission, remained with a Chinese official at the mint, and is giving information of later events by telegrams and letters.

No further rioting occurred after Sunday. In all there were killed of foreigners six Catholic priests or teachers, and Mr. and Mrs. Kingham and one child. All the Catholic property was destroyed and the property where the Kinghams lived. All other property of missionaries remains intact.

Mr. Werner, the British Consul at Kiukiang, received a telegram yesterday morning from the Governor that the magistrate was still alive. The Consul was to start to day for Nanchang in a gunboat.

Singapore is to have a fourth daily newspaper if the projectors are unable to acquire the plant and goodwill of the *Eastern Daily Mail*, which came into existence about a year ago. The projectors of the enterprise are certain "native millionaires."

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANCHURIA.

A JAPANESE INVESTIGATION COMMISSION.

The Japanese Government has organised says the *Jiji*, what is called the Manchuria Investigation Commission, General Kodama is at the head of the Commission, the other members consisting of the Vice-Ministers and bureau chiefs of various departments. The Commission has already held two meetings, at which ways and means for the proposed investigations in Manchuria were discussed, but it will be some time before the plans of the Commission will be actually carried out. Apart from the Government work, it is important for those who are interested in Manchuria that full inquiries as to the natural resources, etc., of the country should be undertaken with as little delay as possible. That Manchuria abounds in natural wealth is generally admitted. Commencing with the regions watered by the Sungari, known as the granary of Manchuria, the extent of fertile land well adapted for agriculture is said to comprise half the entire provinces, and of this only 20 per cent. is computed to be at present under cultivation. The mineral deposits include coal, gold, silver, iron, lead, etc., while lucrative industries are expected to be developed in timber-felling and cattle-raising. So far, however, investigation in these matters has been rather limited, and of a somewhat superficial character; such as are manifestly inadequate for the promotion of commercial enterprise. For this reason, the exploration of Manchuria by experts should be carried out at the earliest possible moment.

Now that the whole of Manchuria has been thrown open to foreigners, and no fewer than sixteen cities and towns have been opened to trade, there is no doubt, continues the *Jiji*, that people of all nationalities will gradually be attracted to Manchuria. It would be a great pity if the Japanese were to neglect to turn to good account that which they have obtained as the result of so costly a war, while benefitting other people. It is, however, essential that careful and exhaustive investigations should precede the opening of any enterprise, and for this purpose it is desirable that an expedition, consisting of practical men, should be organised. The exploration of Manchuria, when accomplished, would not only provide commercial men with valuable data, but the researches are likely to prove of much value to science. The country, 360,000 square miles in extent, comparatively undisturbed by the hand of man for many centuries, is doubtless full of tremendous possibilities, both from an industrial and scientific point of view. The cost of the expedition should be subscribed for by merchants, manufacturers, and other wealthy people. Since the undertaking is for public benefit, concludes the *Jiji*, the Government should also contribute to the fund, and official experts may be included in the expedition with advantage.—*Japan Chronicle*.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM MANCHURIA.

The withdrawal of the Japanese Army from Manchuria is going on apace. A vernacular contemporary observes that headquarters of all army corps have already returned, and the last of the headquarters of army divisions is expected to leave Tairen by the middle of April. The prompt action of the Japanese army in the withdrawal has fully demonstrated the perfect order and discipline prevailing. On the other hand, the movement of the Russian army is very slow. So far no more than four army corps have left Manchuria, and even then they have only quitted the soil of Manchuria. More than half these forces are still remaining in the seaboard districts of Siberia. A large proportion of the total force of the Russian army in Manchuria will remain there after the completion of the withdrawal by the Japanese. The delay in the movements of the Russian troops may be due to the weather and the disturbances in Russia, but there is reason to believe, says a Japanese contemporary, that Russia is delaying the withdrawal pending the Russo-Chinese negotiations over the Manchurian question.—*Japan Chronicle*.

ENCOURAGING COMMERCE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Since the civil government took the place of the military regime four and a half years ago, the *Manila Bulletin* says, it has been the intention of that government, representing the American people, to foster the trade of the Islands and develop Philippine production. Much has been planned and written and said, and a few things have been done, but so far "Faith, Hope and Charity" have been our only receipts.

In order to get definite results, we need to take definite measures and actually do something besides talk. So long as Government officials indulge in dreams of future greatness rather than foster the trade that now exists we will have hard times.

What we mean is this. The present tariff regulations are probably fairly satisfactory. At least the officials in charge of their administration can not make or change the law in the case. They do, however, in some cases have a considerable leeway in interpretation and frequently the personal disposition of the official determines the rate imposed.

In many cases it is not highly important which way an article is classified. The luxuries and refinements of life may be charged at a little higher rate without serious injury. It is the custom of all civilized countries to place a large internal revenue upon liquor and tobacco, and the tariff on importations is correspondingly high. It may be inconvenient, but it does not cripple the country, if the rate on clothing and some food stuffs is increased.

The development of production in the islands is the beginning of prosperity and progress. If we can not get new ways of ploughing and threshing and stripping and marketing all the banquets and junkets and wine dinners in the next century will not rescue the archipelago from bankruptcy.

Agricultural machinery of all sorts should be admitted free of all duty. This means an act of congress and our hopes are not high for immediate relief. There is, however, room for a certain discretion in the classification of such machinery, and the importers ought to have the benefit of every doubt. There is little use of learned talk so long as the men in charge of this thing continue to fix the rate at the highest possible notch and then insist on the case being referred to a court of arbitration. Meantime, the importers' good money is tied up without interest, and he has no redress.

To an importer who has sold a lot of machinery expecting to get it through at 15 per cent. it makes a difference if, by some juggling of the rules, the rate increased to 25 per cent. after the goods arrive in port. This is "no importa" to the official; the world over it is recognized that customs officials are the narrowest and most technical set of men to be found.

The situation is serious, and demands immediate relief. If there is authority anywhere to compel a more liberal construction of the regulations, it should be invoked and relief afforded. If we are going to develop the islands, we had better begin with some of the big fundamental leaks in the system, and let the lesser matters stand over for a time if need be.

PROTECTORATE OR COLONY.

A question, says *L'Avenir du Tonkin*, has arisen among Europeans in Hanoi and Haiphong. It is—Are we in a protectorate or in French territory? Some say "yes" and some say "no." The treaty of June 6th, 1884, concluded between France and Annam, recognises and establishes the régime of the protectorate over Annam and Tonkin. On the October 3rd, 1898, a royal ordinance made the territories of Hanoi, Haiphong, and Tourane French Concessions, which were ceded in all propriety to the French Government. The delimitation of the new territories was carefully carried out by the delegates of the Governor-General of Indo-China and of His Excellency Kinh-Luoc, and it is exactly set forth in the documents deposited in the archives of the kingdom of Annam and of the Governor-General. If the letter and the spirit of these documents were followed some singular things would happen.

NEW BANKING LAW IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The Corporation Bill became law yesterday morning, says the *Cablenews* of the 2nd inst., but will not go into full effect till April 1 next. In the reconsideration of the bill the Commission has been actuated by a desire to remove from it everything that would tend to prevent American or foreign capital from coming to the islands. Many clauses in the original law were therefore cut out or materially changed. The bond of \$50,000 foreign corporations were called upon to put up before they could enter the local field has been dropped. The \$500,000 called for in the old law as capital stock for insurance companies has been reduced to \$250,000.

Section 103 relative to savings and mortgage banks is made to read:—Any banking corporation, the principal business of which is the receiving of funds on time deposits, and their investment, together with that of its capital, in bonds, or in loans secured by bonds, bullion, or real estate mortgages, as hereafter provided, or in any combination of the aforementioned forms of investment, shall be known as a savings and mortgage bank for the purposes of this act.

Such corporations shall not be permitted to file their articles of incorporation with the Chief of the Bureau of Archives or shall not receive his certificate of incorporation unless such articles show, under oath of the incorporators, that such corporation has a capital stock of not less than two hundred thousand pesos, that the same has been fully subscribed and actually paid into the treasury of the corporation.

Every such bank shall at all times have on hand, in lawful money of the Philippine Islands or of the United States, an amount equal to at least twenty per centum of the aggregate amount of its deposits in all respects. The term "lawful money of the Philippine Islands" shall include silver certificates issued under authority of Act numbered nine hundred and thirty-eight of the Philippine Commission, ordinarily called the "Gold Standard Act," and gold certificates should the issue thereof be authorized for the Philippine Islands by the Congress of the United States, and the term "lawful money of the United States" shall include gold and silver certificates of the United States and bank notes issued by national banks in the United States; provided, however, That in case of a bank having branches as provided in section one hundred and twenty-eight of this Act the provision for a twenty per centum reserve shall be deemed to be complied with if the principal bank and its branches in the aggregate have on hand twenty per centum in lawful money of the aggregate amount of the deposits in the principal bank and all of its branches.

THE SINGAPORE HARBOUR SCHEME.

The Legislative Council of Singapore on the 23rd ult. discussed the important motion by the Colonial Secretary, notice of which was given at the last meeting, that the tender of Sir John Jackson, Ltd., be accepted for the construction of harbour improvement works, excluding the South and East moles, for a sum amounting to £1,030,693.

An amendment was submitted by the Hon. J. Anderson after a lengthy speech that the consideration of the matter be postponed. The Hon. Tan Jiak Kim seconded and it was carried.

During a brief explanation of the motion before Council, the Colonial Secretary said the schemes before them might be considered expensive, but Government was determined to go on with them, notwithstanding the expense.

It has been decided that service with the Tibet mission escort is to be considered as war service, and recorded in the Army List and elsewhere accordingly. The record will be as follows:—Tibet, 1903-04, for all who served with the escort between December 13, 1903, and September 23, 1904, followed, when necessary, by a reference to any of the particular operations specified in the case of those who actually took part in them—(1) action at Niani, June 26, 1904; (2) operations at and around Gyantse between May 5 and July 6, 1904; (3) march to Lhasa, July 14 to August 3, 1904.

COMPANY REPORTS

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-third ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the general managers on Wednesday, 14th March, states:—

Annexed we beg to submit to shareholders the usual annual statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1905.

The net profit is \$48,563.45, which it is proposed to appropriate as follows, viz:—

To place to reserve fund ... \$ 1,000.00
To pay a dividend of \$1.50 per share ... 39,000.00
To carry forward to next year's account ... 6,563.45

The two steamers *Rubi* and *Zufiro* ran regularly during the year. Cargo was scarce and freights ruled low, but expenses were reduced in every way possible, with the result that the profit on working account is a few thousand dollars better than that of last year.

Consulting Committee.—In accordance with the articles of association, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, D. E. Brown, H. P. White and A. V. Apcar retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. T. Arnold and W. H. Potts, who are recommended for re-election.

SHAW, TOMES & Co.
General Managers.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Consulting committee's fees	\$4,000.00
Auditors' fees	400.00
Interest	13,189.71
Charges	2,350.13
Amount written off as Depreciation for 1905	41,476.97
Balance	46,563.45
	\$110,980.26
Balance brought forward from 1904	\$8,832.70
Exchange	89.61
Profit on Working Account &c.	
<i>Rubi</i> & <i>Zufiro</i>	102,057.95
	\$110,980.26

Liabilities.

Authorised capital	
30,000 shares at \$25 each	\$750,000
Issued and fully paid	
26,000 shares at \$25 each	\$650,000.00
Calls on shares forfeited now belonging to the company	160.00
Reserve fund	5,000.00
Underwriting account	21,827.15
Sundry creditors	28,884.56
Company's bankers	19,818.71
Balance of profit and loss account	46,563.45
	\$943,253.87

Assets.

Value of steamers <i>Rubi</i> and <i>Zufiro</i>	\$833,000.00
Less depreciation	43,000.00
	\$790,000.00
Value of Hongkong buoys and moorings as per last statement	\$ 3,400.00
Since expended	494.48
	\$ 3,894.48
Less depreciation	594.48
	3,300.00
Value of Manila buoys and moorings as per last statement	\$ 4,900.00
Since expended	412.96
	\$ 5,312.96
Less depreciation	312.96
	5,000.00
Value of stores on hand	\$ 6,069.53
Less depreciation	569.53
	5,500.00
Value of coal on hand	8,922.20
Proportion of premium on current policies	28,661.78
Sundry debtors	59,840.19
Outstanding freights 1905	38,756.93
Cash	3,272.77
	\$943,253.87

SHANGHAI COMPANIES.

The report for 1905 of the Central Stores, Ltd., which has an old paid-up capital of \$73,506, and a new paid-up capital of \$191,985, shows a divisible balance, after writing off \$4,500 to leasehold property account and \$1,100 for bad and doubtful debts, of \$19,119. It is proposed to pay a dividend of \$2.40 per share on the 6,000 ordinary shares, equal to 20 per cent. for the year, and carry forward the balance, \$4,719.

It has been decided to increase the capital of the Anglo-German Brewery Co. to \$600,000 Mex. by the creation of 2,000 additional shares of \$100 each, ranking for dividend and in all other respects *pari passu* with the existing shares in the Company. 1,000 of these shares are to be offered in the first instance at par to the members of the company holding four or more shares, in proportion as nearly as may be to the number of shares held by them respectively and upon the footing that the full amount of each share shall be paid to the Company on acceptance of the offer, and that the Directors be empowered to dispose of the shares not taken in response to such offer, and of the remaining 1,000 additional shares at such time and in such manner as they consider expedient in the interests of the Company.

The report of the Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd., for 1905 shows a divisible balance, after the payment in July last of an interim dividend of 4 per cent., of Tls. 217,628. It is proposed to carry Tls. 110,000 to depreciation account and Tls. 20,000 to equalisation of dividends, to pay a final dividend of 4 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward the balance, Tls. 13,914.

The dividend paid by the Hotel des Colonies, Tientsin, for the year was 11 per cent., and Tls. 474 carried forward to next account. High praise—and a bonus of Tls. 400—was given to the general manager, Mr. Davies; and it was resolved to change the name of the company to that of "The Grand Hotel Co., Ltd." The new building will be ready early this summer; and the Peitaiho Hotel is to be purchased from Mr. Binks for Tls. 11,000.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

The thirty-seventh ordinary general meeting of this Company was held at the office of the general managers, Kings Buildings, on the 7th March. Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson presided, and there were also present—Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. H. P. White, F. Maitland (consulting committee), G. T. Veitch (secretary), C. N. Young, J. J. Leiria, S. H. Michael, Lo Chiu-shiu, E. J. Moses, W. H. Wickham, Ho Fook, Wong Leung-him and Captain W. E. Clarke.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, with your permission we will take them as read. Until within a few days of the closing of the account we had hoped to show a very much better result for 1905, but unfortunately by the occurrence of a serious fire in Ceylon, the aspect of the account was completely changed and the amount available for distribution amongst shareholders greatly reduced. You will have observed that the item under the head of Japanese Government deposit stand in the balance sheet at \$111,200 against \$122,479.59 in the previous year. It was recommended by the auditors that these bonds should be written down to their redeemable value at par of exchange, and this has been done, the difference being debited to exchange account. I am able to report that our surveyors are perfectly satisfied that all mortgages show ample margin against the sums advanced. As regards the 1905 account, the balance shown at credit is the largest in the history of the Company, and if only outstanding risks continue to run off with no more than an average of losses, we should

have a satisfactory account to present to you twelve months hence. There is nothing further, it occurs to me, to add with reference to the accounts, but I shall be happy to reply to any questions appertaining to same which any shareholder may wish to ask.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN proposed that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Captain CLARKE seconded, and the proposition was agreed to unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN moved, and Mr. LEIRIA seconded, that Sir Paul Chater and Messrs. White, Maitland and Raymond be re-elected to serve on the consulting committee. Carried.

Messrs. W. H. Potts and T. Arnold were re-elected auditors, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. MOSES.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready at ten o'clock to-morrow. I thank you for your attendance.

Mr. WICKHAM—Before we part I should like to propose a vote of thanks to the general managers and the staff for the way in which they have carried on the business of the company not only for this but in previous years. I understand the secretary is shortly leaving us for home, and I am sure I am only voicing the good wishes of the shareholders in proposing a vote of thanks to him for his able services during the years he has been connected with the Company, and wishing him a happy and prosperous time in his retirement (applause).

The CHAIRMAN—I am glad to have the opportunity of endorsing the appreciative remarks which have fallen from Mr. Wickham as regards the services of Mr. Veitch, who we regret is leaving us after a very long connection with the Company.

Mr. VEITCH—Gentlemen, I am very much obliged for the kind words spoken in appreciation of my services. You have my best wishes, and I trust the Company will have many, many years of prosperity.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO.

An extraordinary general meeting of this Company was held at the office in St. George's Building on the 7th March. The Hon. Mr. R. Shewan occupied the chair, and there were present—Messrs. A. Babington, A. G. Somerville, T. Hough, P. C. Potts, E. J. Moses, Captain Clarke, G. Murray Bain, with the secretary, Mr. R. Henderson.

The special business was to pass the special resolution which was read by the Secretary as follows:—

"That the capital of the Company be increased to \$2,000,000 by the creation and issue of 50,000 new shares of \$10 each fully paid up to be offered at par and if accepted to be allotted to the persons constituting the shareholders of the Company according to the Company's register of shareholders on the first day of July, 1906, in the proportion of one new share for every three old shares in the Company held by the respective shareholders thereof, the amount payable on each of such new shares to be paid on the 31st day of July, 1906, and that failing such allotment as aforesaid the said new shares be disposed of by the general managers in accordance with the Company's articles of association."

The CHAIRMAN—I propose that.

Mr. HOUGH—I second it. Comment is absolutely unnecessary.

The motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—The next meeting for the confirmation of the resolution will be held on 24th March. We have to keep an interval of fourteen days by law.

This was all the business.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO.

The 37th ordinary meeting of shareholders in this Company was held on Mar. 8 at the offices, 3, Queen's Road, Mr. A. G. Wood presided, and there were present—Hon. Mr. R. Shewan, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, A. Haupt, H. W. Slade, E. Shellim, E. Goetz (directors), A. O. Apcar, W. J. Saunders, A. Forbes, Captain Goddard, J. J. Leiria, A. H. M. da Silva, Chan Pat, W. H. T. Davis, with the acting secretary, Mr. C. Pemberton.

The acting secretary having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and statement of the Company's accounts for the past year having been in your hands for a fortnight, I will now, subject to your approval, adopt the usual course, and take them as read. It is a matter of regret to the Board that the year 1905 did not turn out as favourably as expected after the promising balance of \$260,374.35 carried forward at the end of that year, but we were unfortunate enough to have to meet exceptionally heavy claims to the extent of \$151,220.61 on our unexpired risks during 1905, so that the year has only resulted in a profit of \$131,448.29. This, however, enables us to pay our usual dividend of \$6 per share, and to transfer \$11,443.29 to the Extra Reserve Fund. Your Directors regret that they are unable to recommend the bonus of \$1 per share as distributed last year, but this can only be expected when results are exceptionally favourable. Turning now to the Working Account of 1905, it is pleasant to be able to report that the sum of \$341,098.98 is the largest that has been carried forward since the inception of the Company, and with ordinary good fortune we have every reason to hope for a much better out-turn than the previous year showed. Both Premium and Interest Accounts show increases, and with regard to the former this is especially satisfactory, as at the end of last year we closed down a part of our London business which was proving unprofitable. Losses during the year were about the average, but this is chiefly due to the unfortunate conflagration in Cebu in March last by which we suffered considerably. The Companies' surveyors have reported upon the properties in Hongkong under mortgage to us, and the Board are perfectly satisfied with the security in each instance. I am sorry to say that Mr. G. L. Tomlin has had to go home on sick leave, and I am sure that you will all join me in wishing him a speedy recovery. These are all the remarks I think you will expect from me, gentlemen, and I will therefore conclude by moving "that the Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1905, as presented, be adopted." After this has been seconded, I shall be happy to reply to any questions that may be put relating to the business before the meeting.

This was seconded by Mr. ORANGE, and approved.

On the motion of Mr. SAUNDERS, seconded by Captain GODDARD, the Hon. Mr. R. Shewan and Mr. N. A. Siebs were re-elected directors.

The auditors, Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. R. Lowe, were re-appointed on the motion of Mr. A. O. APCAR, seconded by Mr. FORBES.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be posted this afternoon.

SHIPPING NOTES.

While the Russian steamer *Jupiter*, which arrived from Odessa, was being berthed at Borneo Wharf, Singapore, recently a collision occurred between her and the German mail steamer *Bayern*, which was lying at section eight. The *Jupiter* was being taken into her berth astern of the *Bayern* by Pilot Stovell, when she did not go astern at a critical moment though the pilot gave the order to put the engines astern. The *Jupiter* swung up against the mail steamer and her port anchor tore away the starboard stanchions and ten feet of the *Bayern's* rail, but beyond this nothing serious was done and the *Jupiter* was eventually safely berthed. The *Jupiter*, which is bound for Vladivostok with a general cargo, only called at Singapore for provisions and 500 tons of coal. It will be remembered she was one of the vessels which accompanied the ill-fated Baltic armada.

Last week, says the *Japan Chronicle* of the 27th ult., the western department of the Japan Steamship Owners' Association held meetings in Osaka and considered a proposal to incorporate themselves into one company. The proposal was unanimously supported, and the members present represented about 80,000 tons. This will total 130,000 tons when the steamers owned by the members of the eastern department of

the Association are added. A committee has been appointed to attend to the flotation of the company, the whole of the Association having agreed to the incorporation. It is stated that some of the owners are not in a position to be content with receiving shares in the new company. They are in want of cash, and how money will be raised for such requirements will be determined afterwards—whether by foreign loan or by preferential shares.

The Acting British Consul at Manila, we learn from one of our contemporaries in that city, has taken steps to reduce desertions from British vessels arriving at Manila, and in a circular letter issued to local stevedoring firms and shippers, attention is called to an act passed by the Philippine commission providing for the arrest of deserters from foreign vessels in these islands. It is urged that masters of all British vessels due to arrive at Manila be informed that it is their duty to notify the office of the British Consul of any desertions at the port in order that an application for arrest may be issued. Vessel masters should give particulars of any such deserters appearance, specifying his age, nationality, height, and appearance and forward the official log book with entry of such desertion. It is further stated that should any vessel flying British colours leave this port without the master making an application for the arrest of any men that may be missing before her departure, he will be reported to the Board of Trade.

CURRENCY PROBLEMS IN CHINA.

THE COPPER COINAGE.

The following illuminating contribution appears in the latest commercial supplement of the *London Times*. It was written by a correspondent at Shanghai:—

One of the most serious of the internal problems before the Chinese Government arises out of the depreciation of the copper coinage, the currency of the people. From time immemorial China has had a coinage, and by the year 680 B.C. it was well regulated in weight and shape. The earliest round coins date from the fifth century B.C., and since that time China has never been without her round copper coin with a square hole—a respectable life of twenty-five centuries. At various times there have been temporary changes of size and weight, but on the whole the coins have been unaltered in both respects for many centuries. The present writer between 1870 and 1880, before the melting down began, found among strings of common "cash" in daily circulation numerous specimens of the time of Queen Elizabeth, many of Plantagenet times, not a few dating back to the Norman Conquest, and some even as early as the time of Alfred—all, in this pocketless land where coins are strung in rolls, in perfectly serviceable condition.

THE CURRENCY OF THE PEOPLE.

Many people have said it, but it must be repeated until it is fully understood, that this is the currency of the people, in which the daily transactions of four hundred millions are carried on. The importer and the exporter have an exchange question ever present; the wholesale dealer buys and sells with ounces (taels) of silver bullion; but the artisan and the farmer sell the products of their labour for a sum in copper coin, and in the same coin buy what will suffice for their daily needs. And this coin is not the sturdy penny, but one of which it would take close upon 10,000 to equal the value of one pound sterling. This infant of a coin, frail as it appears, has satisfied the need of the Chinese people for, as we have seen, 25 centuries. The coinage itself is in a fearful state of degeneration, but the system has stood the test of time and is good; it only needs regulation so that there may be recognized and fixed connection with other currencies, those of the wholesale dealer and of the outer world. The copper coins, which in the past 30 years have depreciated in quality fully 30 per cent. in their relation to the tael of silver; 30 years ago the tael of silver exchanged for 1,800 copper coins weighing about 15lb., and now for 1,200 such coins weighing not over 6lb.

CONVENTIONAL AND INTRINSIC VALUE.

It is true as a principle that the coinage of any country is worth the value of the metal contained in it and no more, subject to the exception that subsidiary coins are maintained at a conventional value by regulation. Now regulation is a thing repugnant to the Chinese mind; regulations they can appreciate, but the abstract idea of regulating a conventional arrangement can be taken in only so far as the concrete shall appear manifested. This mental limitation hampers them in dealing with coins, for the reason that they have never had interchangeable coins, of which at all times and in all places so many of one kind shall exchange for so many of another, as 12 pence exchange for one shilling. For the past score of years the Chinese mints in the several provinces have issued the dollar and its fractional parts. Even here, where they had a foreign model and foreign names with a system already established, they have found it impossible to think in terms of coins; and the very mint which is the official guardian of the purity and stability of the coinage has permitted itself to issue fractional currency at a discount limited only by the relative intrinsic value of the coins. The Englishman may fancy the Mint in London giving out 35s. for a sovereign if thereby it might make 5s. seignorage.

DEPRECIATING THE COPPER COINAGE.

When 30 years ago the depreciation in the value of silver began, copper became relatively appreciated; and malefactors of all conditions braved the terrors of the law—which decrees the death penalty to those who melt down the coin of the realm—and the fine full-weight coins of the 18th and previous centuries began to find their way to the melting pot. Twenty years ago a deficiency in the circulating medium was noticeable, and by Imperial order all the mints took steps to supply the demand; this was done from pure patriotism or loyalty and at a loss, and since then the minting of single cash pieces has not sufficed to make good the wastage. Matters became critical, there was a real stringency in the copper coin market, and discontent of the kind that leads to riot and rebellion became rife. Then the mints discovered that there was a demand to be supplied, and that in supplying that demand there was the prospect of considerable profit; quite naturally they stepped into the breach, and in benefiting themselves benefited also the nation clamouring for coin. To meet the demand for "cash" they issued token coins of the face value of ten "cash," and under proper regulation these would have continued to meet a real need of the people; but it is precisely regulation which has been lacking.

Much has been made of differences of design, weight and composition in the coins issued by the various provincial mints, but in the main these differences may be disregarded. In general the "ten cash" coins have been found on assay to contain 7.25 grammes of pure copper, and at £58 a ton the copper in 100 of them has an intrinsic value of 12d.; in the exchange equivalent the token coin has an intrinsic value about half that of the standard, since in 1,000 ordinary cash of to-day the intrinsic value of the copper and spelter is about 25d. The same thing is seen in England, where the shilling, of an intrinsic value of 5d to 6d exchanges everywhere and at all times for 12d and is always worth one-twentieth of a sovereign; and under the same conditions there is no reason why token coins should not have a steady exchange value in China as in England. In China, however, the stream has flowed in one direction only. The mints have been pouring out their steady flow of the coins and a few months ago saw in one of the provinces the establishment of a second competing mint. In Fukien the Tartar general, titular upholder of the Manchu conquest, dissatisfied at seeing the profits rolling into the Viceroy's treasury, has set up his own mint to issue these coins.

There has been much talk, too, of over-issue, but in fact there has been none as yet. In 1903 the output was less than in 1900, and in the latter year it has been estimated at 1,750,000,000 pieces, 4½ per capita, of about a penny a head for the whole Empire of China; it is probable that the total output to the end of 1905 will not exceed 6,000,000,000. The whole output was readily absorbed, as it came to supply an actual

deficiency. At the end of 1903 the various provincial authorities were restricting the shipment of the coin outside their own jurisdiction, and were at the same time making every effort to encourage its introduction from other provinces, the reason for both measures being a statesmanlike desire to relieve the money stringency pressing on the poorer classes. All that has changed; at the end of 1905 it is on the introduction of the coins that restriction is imposed, not because the need does not exist, but because the authorities in each province now stand ready to supply that need.

CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR STABILITY.

What are the conditions necessary for stability of exchange value in a subsidiary coin? Of the vital conditions only three need be named—(1) That there shall not be over-issue; (2) that behind the issue shall always stand either a sufficient reserve fund, or the guarantee of a solvent Government of good credit; and (3) that the Government which issues the coin shall always be ready to take it in at face value, within the legal tender limits. None of these conditions are met in China. There has been no over-issue as yet, but it is perilously near, not because the real needs of the people have been satisfied, but because the other conditions have not been fulfilled. The seignorage on this coinage may be put at 50 per cent., and as matters stand in China, with a Government of good credit in financial circles but not regardless of its responsibilities, the whole of this seignorage, certainly the entire accumulation of the past three years, should have been set aside to form a reserve fund, to maintain the value of the coin in the market, and to make good the loss to the Government in receiving it for taxes. Instead of this, the seignorage has been regarded as recurring income; we have seen memorials and edicts referring to the allocation of revenue from this source for certain specified public purposes; we have seen a viceroy commanded to restrict his output to a million pieces a day, and pleading in reply that his public commitments required him to exceed that amount, because he had counted on the revenue therefrom; and it is generally known that the whole of the seignorage is at once absorbed. Then, for the third condition, it is probable that the issuing mint would at once admit its own liability to receive the coins at the same rate as it paid them out; but a mint issues and does not take in, and in China no office is under much of an obligation to any other office, and it is very certain that the coins will not be received at face value in payment of taxes.

SERIOUS OBJECT LESSONS IN SHANGHAI.

Shanghai has had an object lesson in this during the year. The arsenal was supplied with much of its funds in the new bronze coin, which it used for the purpose of paying the workmen; coin was poured in more than sufficient for this purpose, and the Director-General announced to the Mint that he would in future receive it only at 10 per cent. discount; he probably saw no reason why he should not have, at least, a fifth of the seignorage. When this became known, the exchange market at once responded and the coin was depreciated throughout Shanghai, the rate for the silver dollar going in twenty-four hours from 88 to 96; the decline has gone steadily on, and the rate is now at 107 or 108—within six months a coin which filled an actual need and which was popular, but which had not before been put to the test, has depreciated 18 per cent. Here we have a situation of great gravity. Let us transfer the case to England. An exact counterpart is to suppose the penny always to have a constant value of one-two-hundred and fortieth of a pound sterling, and that the shilling is a token coin with a face value of 12 pence, but an intrinsic value of less than sixpence. The farm labourer receives 18s. a week from which to pay rent and feed and clothe his family; six months ago he exchanged his 18s. for 216d., but to-day only for 177d.; and with depreciation once set in, there is no natural reason why it should not go on until his 18s. are worth only 100d. Pennies are deficient in supply and payments must be made in shillings. Then transfer this English labourer to a land of abject poverty and chronic unrest, in which the ruling dynasty is regarded, as the Eaxon serfs regarded their Norman conquerors, from all parts of which come to-day constant reports of

riots and uprisings, of pillage and massacre, and which is now showing a recrudescence of the never-dying hostility to foreign domination and privilege; how long would it be before he found his Jack Cade or Wat Tyler to lead him to redress his wrongs? The Chinese peasant is beginning to fight shy of the new coin, but he may not fully realize that to it chiefly his distress is due; none the less when the pinch of poverty comes to add weight to the numerous other grievances which he feels, he has never been backward in suggesting, by the gentle methods of riot, brigandage or rebellion, that he expects some redress. The authorities will then find that, in issuing a depreciated coinage without making due provision for the future, they have sown the wind and must expect to reap the whirlwind.

AN INTERESTING HONGKONG BANKING CASE.

Judgment has been given in the action *Edwin H. Lamme v. The International Banking Corporation and the American Commercial Co.*, which has been tried at Shanghai by the Hon. James L. Rogers, U.S. Consul-General, sitting as Judge. We have already given the substance of the case. The judgment delivered by his Honour reads as follows:—

The statement of facts in this action is that the plaintiff, Edwin H. Lamme, an attorney-at-law, practicing in Shanghai, rendered legal services to the American Commercial Company a corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, United States of America, and doing business in various Asiatic cities but more particularly in Canton; that in the spring of the year 1905 litigation against said Company was instituted and its business suspended by order of the American Consular authorities at Canton; that of its officers, managers and employees there only remained in China, so far as is known, Edward Edwards, Vice-President, a Director and General Manager, as appears of record; that the said Edwards, on July 27, 1905, in the Court of the American Consulate General, Shanghai, confessed judgment for the American Commercial Company in behalf of the said Lamme on a suit for \$2,150 Mexican, representing a bill for legal service; that before said judgment was entered full evidence was taken to establish the authority of Edwards to so act on behalf of the American Commercial Company; that it appeared that the associates of Edwards in the corporation had left China and their whereabouts were unknown; that following the judgment given in Shanghai, Lamme accepted from Edwards as satisfaction of his judgment a certain certificate of deposit, in favour of the American Commercial Company, in the sum of \$2,000 Mexican issued by the Hongkong branch of the International Banking Corporation, the said certificate of deposit being due and payable on and after November 26th, 1905; that upon presentation of the certificate endorsed by the American Commercial Company, per Edward Edwards, Manager, and by Lamme as owner under title of assignment in satisfaction of judgment, payment was refused on the ground that the certificate of deposit was not negotiable and that sufficient evidence was not produced to satisfy the bank that Edwards had the authority to act for the American Commercial Company that thereupon Lamme brought suit against the International Banking Corporation and the American Commercial Company, service on the defendants being obtained in Shanghai.

It has been contended by the defendant, the International Banking Corporation, that there is a lack of jurisdiction inasmuch as the contract represented by the certificate of deposit was made in the city of Hongkong where English law should govern, and that as the certificate of deposit is plainly marked and was thoroughly understood to be non-negotiable, it could not be assigned and title to it could not pass, the same being vested in the American Commercial Company, which corporation should apply for it in a manner and form satisfactory to the bank.

It appears to the Court that the only pressing material issue in this question is that involving the propriety and legality of the bank's contention as to the non-negotiability of the certificate of deposit and the refusal to recognise the authority of Edwards to transfer title. Had

the American Commercial Company had a good standing, and had there been no consideration of facts involved by the knowledge to the contrary it is perhaps safe to assume that no such opposition on the part of the bank would have arisen. But under all the circumstances and by authority of the law there was certainly justification in assuming such an attitude, even in opposition to the judgment of a Court. This judgment, however, having been obtained upon as full a statement of facts as could be presented under the peculiar conditions existing, was nevertheless not related in the first instance to the question which confronted the offices of the bank, and the order in satisfaction of judgment directly connecting the certificate of deposit might with propriety be attacked on the ground that the bank had no opportunity to appear or be heard.

As a matter of law well sustained by the highest authorities, and as a moral duty, it appears to me that the contention of the non-negotiability of the certificate of deposit and the lack of authority to assign should be sustained. The laws of the United States of America provide a remedy for such a condition as that involved and in my opinion they should be invoked by an application for the appointment of a receiver for the American Commercial Company, since it is manifestly improbable, if not impossible, to secure such corporate authority as could or should be accepted now by the bank in the discharge of its obligation.

The petition is therefore dismissed without prejudice to any action which may be brought under a receivership. Each party will pay its own costs made in this case.

His Honour said that Mr. Lamme was at liberty to apply for the appointment of a receiver for the company.

Mr. Lamme said that such an appointment would be void. He would like to withdraw the certificate from the Court as he intended to commence a new suit in the United States District Court of California.

HONGKONG.

Mr. E. Jones, first boarding officer, has been appointed as istant harbour master during the absence on leave of Mr. B. H. Taylor.

The Colonial Government has received a telegram to the effect that Shanghai has declared Hongkong to be infected with plague.

We are informed by the Oxford Local Committee that 102 candidates (6 being girls) have entered for the Oxford Local Exams. next July.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Lieutenant William Arthur Crake to be Captain in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, Engineer Company, with effect from the 16th instant.

We notice in the *Times* of January 27th, received by Sunday's mail, that Mr. G. A. Woodcock, of the Hongkong Civil Service, was called to the bar at G. A. Inn on January 26th. Mr. Woodcock's name appears second in the list.

A Ceylon paper says:—"The big Hongkong loan, chiefly for railway expenditure on the mainland, has gone through, at 99, the rate of interest being 3½ per cent. Ceylon will split its loan in two, and will keep to its 3 per cent., and we trust will get the money at 95."

It is notified in the current *Gazette* that H. E. the Governor has been pleased to re-appoint Messrs. Fung Wa-chün and Lau Chupak to be members of the Sanitary Board for a further period of three years from the 6th instant.

The return showing the number of cases of communicable diseases which have been notified as occurring in the Colony during the week ended 3rd March is as under:—Bubonic plague, 8 (all Chinese) and 7 deaths, diphtheria, 1 (Filipino); enteric fever, 2 (Europeans); small-pox, 11 (3 Europeans and 8 Chinese) and 5 deaths.

Early on the 7th inst. the Fire Brigade, under Chief Inspector Baker, was summoned to 147, Winglock Street, where fire had broken out in the first floor. The flames were quickly extinguished, but not before the roof had been destroyed and the remaining floors damaged, the ground floor suffering most from water. The premises where the fire originated were occupied as a medicine shop and were insured for \$13,000.

An old Portuguese, named Innocencio A. Xavier, a clerk, residing at 34, Elgin Road, died at the Circus on the 3rd March. When the motor bicycle act was in progress he became very excited and was seen to fall back. Several people went to his assistance and found that he had expired. Death was attributed to a weak heart.

We are requested by the American Consul-General to inform United States citizens residing in Hongkong that a Register has been opened at that Consulate in accordance with the provisions of the regulations. There is no authority under which registration can be made compulsory, but the obvious advantages to persons who may at any time need the services of a Consular Officer will suggest themselves.

We are informed that the following notification has been received by the Government from the Government of Madras:—"The Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the regulations under the Venice Sanitary Convention be re-imposed at all the uninfected ports of the Madras Presidency against vessels arriving from Hongkong, intimation having been received of the occurrence of fresh cases of plague at that place."

A rifle match between teams representing the 2nd R. W. Kent Sergeants and the Left Half No. 2 H.K.V.A. took place at Tai Hang Range on Sunday last and resulted in a win for the Volunteers by 64 points. The aggregates were 657 and 593. The 99 made by Sergt. Terrill for the Volunteers and the 94 by Col-Sergt Thorne, of the Kents, were the best individual scores. It is hoped that a return match will shortly be arranged, when the regimental team may be trusted to give a much better account of themselves.

The current number of the *Government Gazette* contains the final general statement of account of the Praya Reclamation Works to March 31st, 1906. The contributions received from lot holders amounted to \$2,420,823 and the Government contributions to \$478,222. In addition the Government contributed \$328,309 for the re-construction of Government piers. Altogether the revenue side of the account shows a total of \$3,369,409.23. A balance of \$64,608 is to be refunded to lot holders and the Government.

A Chamber Concert organised by Lady Piggott will be given, by kind permission of H. E. Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., at Government House, in aid of the Japan Famine Fund, on Tuesday afternoon, 27th March, at 4.15 p.m. Tickets, \$2.50 each, may be obtained from the following ladies who have kindly volunteered to assist Lady Piggott:—Mrs. Hatton, Lady Berkeley, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Gershom Stewart, Mrs. Wise, Mrs. Aitkin, Mrs. Kruger, Madame Liebert, Mrs. Noma, Mrs. Post, Mrs. Painter, Mrs. Bolles, Mrs. Fullerton, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Lee-Jones, Mrs. Seth, Mrs. Stedman and Miss Barker. Tickets may also be obtained from Messrs. Kelly and Walsh and the Robinson Piano Company, Limited. Lady Piggott will also be pleased to receive donations to the Fund in addition to the price of tickets.

Especial interest attached to the departure of the Canadian Pacific Co. Steamer *Empress of Japan* on March 7th, inasmuch as H. R. H. Prince Arthur of Connaught will journey by her from Yokohama to Vancouver. The four special state rooms on the promenade deck have been reserved for the accommodation of H. R. H., and these rooms have been entirely re-decorated for the special comfort of the royal traveller. While two of the rooms remain as sleeping apartments, one has been converted into a luxurious lounge and smoking room, and another into a reading and writing room, being furnished with writing and card tables, comfortable easy chairs, rich pile carpets and silk tapestry hangings, the work having been carried out by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. and Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co. under the supervision of the superintendent, Mr. H. T. Richardson. The many residents and visitors who inspected these cabins were unanimous in their approval of the artistic results achieved by the above-mentioned firms.

COMMERCIAL.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 8th March.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$1000	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1050	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$1100	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1170	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1050	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$1100	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$895	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	\$875	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$837½	to	—	do.
Benares Old	\$820	to	—	do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of Mar. 8th, state that 14 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 57,050 tons of coal. Since February 22nd 14 steamers have arrived with a total of 30,650 tons of coal.

Quotations:—

Cardiff	\$15.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$9.50 to \$10.25	ex-ship, steady.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00	nominal.
Milki Lump	\$11.00 to \$12.00	steady.
Moji Lump	\$9.00 to \$10.00	steady.
Akaike	\$9.75 to \$10.00	steady.
Bengal	\$9.00 to \$9.75	nominal.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 9th March.—Small sales only.

Market quiet. Stock about 800 bales.

Bombay	\$18.00 to \$20.00	per picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon	20.00 to 23.50	"
and Dacca	"	"
Shanghai and Japanese	26.00 to 27.00	"
Tungchow and Ningpo	26.00 to 27.00	"

Reported sales 250 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee in his report dated Hongkong, 9th March, says:—The market has continued almost lifeless throughout the past fortnight. Settlements are estimated at a little over 600 bales, the majority being booked in the earlier part of the interval, if indeed some portion are not old purchases just reported, rates showing a further small depreciation. Under ordinary circumstances dealers would not have been slow to take advantage of the situation, but having still on hand a considerable quantity of costly yarn for which they cannot find an outlet, they have refrained from tampering with the market. Importers, on the other hand, despite a decline of 2½ points in Rupee exchange, are very anxious and impatient sellers, and what with a dull country market, incessant heavy arrivals, and increasing stocks, we are now passing through a period of intense depression. Bombay is reported very firm.

The question of clearance is now giving some concern to importers—deliveries in some instances being delayed 12 to 14 months—and it is generally felt that unless there is a very marked improvement in the country demand as well as in the off-take for shipment, the steady increase of stocks, both in first and second hands, will play no unimportant part in bringing about, sooner or later, a serious collapse of the market.

Sales of the fortnight aggregate 637 bales, arrivals 17,574, stock estimated at 85,000, and sold but uncleared goods in the hands of dealers, 45,000 bales.

Local Manufacture:—Sales of 100 bales each of Nos. 10s, 12s and 16s, are reported at \$104½, \$106½ and \$119 respectively.

Japanese Yarn:—Nothing doing.

Raw Cotton:—Notwithstanding meagre stocks and trifling receipts, the raw material continues to move very slowly owing to the dullness in the market for yarn. Sales reported are 75 bales Bengal at \$22, and 75 bales China at \$24 to \$25. Unsold stock 365 bales Indian and 170 China. Quotations are Indian \$20 to \$23½ and Chinese \$22 to \$25.

Exchange on India has continued to decline and shows a drop of 2½ points during the interval, closing weak to-day at Rs. 152 for T/T and Rs. 152½ for Post. On Shanghai 71½, on Japan 99½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 24th ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Market quiet and weak, total sales 4,500 bales at a decline of 1 to 3 Taels; unsold stock 68,000 bales.

Japanese:—Market firm, total sales 2,700 bales on the basis of Tls. 92 to 100½ for No. 16s, and Tls. 106 to 108 for No. 20s.

Local:—No business of importance, market closing firm.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s latest Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 2nd March, 1906, states:—The weather commenced to clear up two days ago, after an almost continuous spell of three weeks' rain, during which time the fall amounted to nearly seven and a half inches. Since its cessation trade has greatly improved, although deliveries are very much hampered by the crowded state of the Godowns. The departure of the Tientsin steamers has been postponed for a day or two, and unfortunately the quantity of goods required seems likely to be much less than it was at first expected to be. This it is understood is to some extent due to the determination of the local Steamer Companies to charge the same high freight as last year. It was thought at first there would be considerable opposition by Japanese boats and that tonnage would be much cheaper, but in this shippers have been disappointed, though there is little doubt but that these high rates will encourage competition, and in anticipation of that cargo is likely to be held back as much as possible. So far as we can learn from the Shipping Hongs the first few steamers will only carry about 15,000 bales of Piece Goods from the stock here, and four hundred tons American Domestic that have been waiting for transhipment hence. This will be a great disappointment to holders, for the congested state of the Godowns is getting worse and worse. There is not much news concerning the state of the Peiho, and nothing yet as regards Newchwang. The air has been full of rumours concerning the critical state of things at the Capital, but so far nothing of any importance has transpired. The home market appears to be keeping remarkably strong on the whole, albeit some staple makes are quoted a trifle lower. Meanwhile Cotton in Liverpool is slowly but steadily declining, the last quotation for Mid American being 5.69d.; that for Egyptian, however, remains the same, namely 8½d. Telegraphic advices from New York during the interval have been singularly scarce, both as regards the market for goods and the price of Cotton. Deliveries for the River Ports and nearer markets are showing a gradual improvement, but the demand is still much below normal. Business here is dull to the verge of stagnation, many attributing it to the anomalous state of sterling exchange. As was anticipated the Bankers here have found it impossible to keep it so much below the parity of Silver, as was the case until recently, and thus there still remains a great deal of uncertainty. The Yarn market was rather more active in the early part of the interval, but the demand has died out and quietness prevails at the close. Native Cotton is easier.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 9th March.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—		per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	...	\$90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	...	140.00 to 160.00
" 22 to 24	...	160.00 to 165.00
" 28 to 32	...	167.50 to 175.00
" 38 to 42	...	180.00 to 190.00

Reported sales 1,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—		per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	...	\$2.20 to \$2.25
7 lbs.	...	2.30 to 2.40
8.4 lbs.	...	3.00 to 4.00
9 to 10 lbs.	...	4.10 to 5.30
White Shirtings—54 to 58 rd.	...	2.80 to 3.00
58 to 60 "	...	3.10 to 3.60
64 to 66 "	...	3.80 to 5.40
Fine	...	6.10 to 8.00
Book-folds	...	5.30 to 8.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	...	0.80 to 1.00
T. Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y	...	2.20 to 2.30
7 lbs. (32 ")	...	2.70 to 3.00
6 lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	...	2.25 to 2.70
7 lbs. (32 ")	...	2.90 to 3.20
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	...	3.25 to 3.80
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ "	...	5.10 to 8.00
to 14 lbs.)		

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.70 to 3.75
-----------------------------------	--------------

		per yard
Brocades—Dyed	...	0.12 to 0.15
Chintzes—A rted	...	0.09 to 0.30
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	...	0.22 to 0.50
Velveteens—18 in.	...	0.22 to 0.28
		per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	...	0.56 to 1.20
WOOLLENS—		per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	...	0.70 to 2.00
German	...	—
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	...	1.25 to 3.50

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 28th Feb., 1906.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 38.00
Do. Seconds	33.50
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	18.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color	65.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	8.25
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	12.50
White China Grass, Sinslian and/or Chayu	11.50
Green China Grass, Szechuen	13.00
Jute	4.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	9.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	9.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	8.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	8.70
Animal Tallow	10.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	10.80
Do. Plum do.	18.60
Tobacco, Tingchow	9.00
Do. Wongkong	11.00
Black Bristles	115.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	(nom.)
" " Wild Duck	(")
Turneric	3.50
Sesamum Seed	4.00
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.50
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	(nom.)
Wood Oil	8.60
Ten Oil	10.00

Per steamer Zieten, sailed on 28th February. For Aden:—750 bags sugar, 100 cases cassia, 50 rolls chinaware, 50 cases preserves, 50 bags galangal, 1 case silverware, 1 bale isinglass. For Odesa:—10 cases palm leaf fans, 2 cases bristles. For Naples:—25 cases staranised. For Genoa:—352 bales raw silk, 25 cases cassia buds, 25 cases staranised, 16 rolls matting, 6 cases chinaware. For Antwerp:—50 bales bamboo scraps. For Amsterdam:—66 cases preserves, 2 cases blackwoodware. Antwerp or Hamburg:—10 cases bristles. For Rotterdam:—100 bales feathers. For Bremen:—117 rolls matting, 8 bales canes, 7 cases curios. For Hamburg:—711 bales feathers, 500 bales cassia, 200 cases cassia, 100 cases essential oil, 56 cases chinaware, 38 cases blackwoodware, 10 cases human hair, 5 cases feathers, 1 case curios. For Copenhagen:—250 cases cassia, 234 rolls mats, 31 bales canes. For London:—375 rolls matting.

Per M. M. steamer Tourane, sailed on 6th Mar. For Marseilles:—156 bales raw silk, 3 cases silk piece goods, 9 bales human hair, 2 cases cottons, 2 cases porcelain, 7 cases ylang ylang oil, 9 cases hats. For Lyons:—451 bales raw silk. For London:—3 cases hats.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—FRIDAY, 9th March.

Telegraphic Transfer	200½
Bank Bills, on demand	200½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	200½
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	200½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	200½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	200½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	250½
Credits 4 months' sight	260½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	209
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	49½
Credits, 60 days' sight	50½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	152½
Bank, on demand	152½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	152½
Bank, on demand	152½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	99½
ON MANILA.—On demand	99½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	15½ p.c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	122½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	3½ p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	3 p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	61½
SOVEREIGNS, 100's Buying Rate	\$9.50
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$51.05
BAR SILVER, per oz	29½

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 9th March, 1906.—With the exception of a further advance in our local Marine Insurance stocks we have still to report a weak and featureless market, with no business of any importance to chronicle. The release of dividend money, which might have been expected to steady the market, has apparently had little or no effect on rates, and stocks generally close dull and difficult to move.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continue on offer at \$860 and we have no business to report. The London rate has fallen to £90. Nationals can still be placed at \$38.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continuing in demand without any shares to supply the market, the rate gradually rose without business to \$795, at which a few shares are reported to have changed hands; later the demand still continuing the rate again went up to \$800 with sales, the market closing steady at that rate. China Traders following Unions, and on the same lines, have advanced to \$96 without business, closing with buyers at that. Cantons have been placed during the week at \$342½ and later at \$345, closing steady at the latter rate. The Northern Insurances remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong's have found buyers in small lots at \$322½ cum dividend of \$25 paid on the 8th inst., and close with a small demand at \$295 ex div. China Fires have continued in demand at \$89 cum dividend of \$6 paid to day, and close with buyers at \$83 ex div.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been in some demand at \$24, but only very small lots have changed hands at that rate. At time of closing \$24½ is to bring shares on the market, but at \$24½ some shares are available. Indo-Chinas continue neglected at \$95 without any business of importance to report; the London rate has fallen to £10. Douglases can still be placed at \$40, but sellers refuse to part except at an advanced rate. China and Manilas, cum div. of \$1.50 to be paid on 14th instant, are obtainable at the reduced rate of \$20½. Star Ferries (old) have been placed at \$32, while a few new issue remain on offer at \$23.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have weakened further to \$210 cash, at which a few shares have changed hands. Luzons have declined to \$35 without business.

MINING.—No changes or business to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue out of favour and small sales have been made at the reduced rate of \$154, sellers at that rate ruling the market at time of closing. Kowloon Wharves, notwithstanding the improved report mentioned in our last, have ruled weaker with sellers and no buyers at \$106. Farnhams during the week have declined in Shanghai to Tls. 117, closing at that rate, while sales have been effected for July at Tls. 222 and Tls. 222½. New Amoy Docks unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have continued to rule quiet at \$115, but a small demand at \$112 fails to meet with any response. Hongkong Hotels have remained weak at \$140 cum div. of \$5, paid on the 7th inst. and close quiet at \$135 ex div. Humphreys' have been negotiated at \$11½ and close with sellers at that rate. Shanghai Lands have improved to Tls. 115.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have advanced in Shanghai to Tls. 62 and Lau Kung Mows declined to Tls. 64. Hongkongs have been placed at \$16 and \$17 closing with buyers at the former and sellers at the latter rate.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have changed hands in small lots at \$9, Dairy Farms at \$16, Green Island at \$30½ and \$30½, and Watsons at \$18. Powells could be placed in small lots at \$11, but sellers demand \$11½ and no business has resulted. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	\$860, sellers London, £90.
National B. of China		
A. Shares	25	\$38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 62, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$16½, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 60
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 64
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250 ex div.
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16, sales
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 117
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$106, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$154
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$16
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 225
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$23, sellers \$22½, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$30, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16½
Do. New	\$10	\$16, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$215, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$135, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$230, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$152
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$10, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$345
China Fire	\$20	\$83, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$96, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$300, ex div.
North China	25	Tls. 92½
Union	\$100	\$800, sales & sel.
Yangtze	\$60	\$180
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$112, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$11½, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 115
West Point Building	\$50	\$53, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	For 250	\$490
Raubs	18/10	\$3½
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5½, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$210, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$35, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$20½, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$24½, buyers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$95, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	21	24/-
Do. Preference	210	2s. 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32, sales & buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$23, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do.	\$5	\$6½, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$11, buyers
Watkins	\$10	\$6, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sales
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$180

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 1st March, 1906, states:—Business in the early part of the week under review was decidedly slack, but at the close we have to report a sensible increase of business all round, both in the speculative stocks and also in the miscellaneous market. Rates all round are fairly steady and a good deal of covering has been done already for the March Settlement. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/11. Banks.—There is no business to report. The rate on Hongkong is quoted at \$890 and the latest London quotation is £95. 10s. 0d. Marine and Fire Insurance.—There is nothing to report under this heading. Shipping.—A single transaction in Indo-Chinas has been reported at Tls. 68. Shanghai Tugs. After sales of ordinary shares last week at Tls. 59 there was a demand at Tls. 60, and shares changed hands at this rate, closing slightly weak. Preference Tugs are wanted at Tls. 60. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. Business in this stock just now is exceedingly quiet and we do not see where any impetus is to come from. The business of the week is restricted to sales for March at Tls. 123½, possibly shares may be had at a fraction less, but with nothing doing we cannot give an accurate closing quotation. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. A large business has been done in this stock during the week at rates which have not varied very much. On the 23rd sales were made at Tls. 230 March and Tls. 240 and 237½ July. A decline then took place and considerable business was done at Tls. 237½ for July. The March rate also dropped to Tls. 227½, and at closing we have to report a further decline to Tls. 226 and 225 March, while there are sellers at Tls. 235 July. Sugars.—A single transaction in Perak Sugars has taken place at Tls. 70. China Sugars are quoted at \$210 sales from Hongkong. Mining.—Weihaiwei Golds are not in demand this week and there is only one lot of shares at \$14 which have changed hands. Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. still continue very firm and at the close Tls. 10.25 can be had for shares. We do not hear of any offering at the rate. Lands.—No business reported but there are buyers at Tls. 113. Industrial.—As usual a fair business has been done in the Cotton Stocks. Ewos have been placed at Tls. 58½ and 58 March, and Tls. 62 December. Internationals. These have changed hands at Tls. 56 and 58, closing firm. Laou-Kung-Mows. The following rates are reported:—Tls. 62 cash, Tls. 63 March and Tls. 65 June. Hongkong Cottons are wanted at \$15. Shanghai Gas Co. have been dealt in at Tls. 130. Green Island Cements have further advanced and business has been done in the South at \$33 closing steady. Langkats have suffered a slight decline during the week, commencing with sales at Tls. 235 and 237 March, and for June delivery Tls. 242½. Up till the 26th these rates were well maintained, but a drop then took place and shares have since been dealt in at Tls. 234 and 238 March, while for forward delivery buyers are scarce at Tls. 240 June and Tls. 242½ July. Stores and Hotels.—Hall & Holtz have been done at \$25. Astors. On rumours of the sale of a portion of the property, shares advanced in one bound from \$28 to \$32½. We close with sellers at \$31 and buyers at 30. Centrals. Old shares have changed hands at \$18. Miscellaneous.—Telephones at Tls. 58. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf debentures 6 per cent. at Tls. 96. Municipal Council 5 per cent. at Tls. 28. Shanghai Lands debentures 6 per cent. at Tls. 96, and Shanghai Waterworks 6 per cent. at Tls. 96.

FREIGHT.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 48/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Harve 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland), Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai: Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai 1st March, 1906, states:—There has been no change in our market since we issued our last. The weather has been so bad that it was almost impossible to move cargo, vessels leaving with only part of their freight which had been booked. Coastwise.—There is still a small enquiry from the river ports and rates from Japan show a decided improvement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

February—

ARRIVALS.

- 4, Gera, German trapt., from Odessa.
- 4, M. Vagironhis, Dutch str., from Muntok.
- 4, Oceano, British str., from Singapore.
- 4, Stuttgart, German trapt., from Odessa.
- 4, Tourane, French str., from Yokohama.
- 4, Triumph, German str., from Hongay.
- 5, Australia, British str., from Australia.
- 5, General Pel, Dutch str., from Muntok.
- 5, Knivsberg, German str., from Iloilo.
- 5, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 5, Marie, German str., from Hongay.
- 5, Recorder, British cable str., from Foochow.
- 5, Sambia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Signal, German str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Tonkin, French str., from Marseilles.
- 5, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Andromeda, British cruiser, from practice.
- 6, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
- 6, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
- 6, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
- 6, Minnesota, Amr. str., from Seattle.
- 6, Nanchang, British str., from Swatow.
- 6, Palembang, Dutch str., from Palembang.
- 6, Seminole, British str., from Calcutta.
- 6, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.
- 6, Tientain, British str., from Kobe.
- 7, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 7, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 7, Human, British str., from Canton.
- 7, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 7, Tiger, German gunboat, from Swatow.
- 7, Willehad, German str., from Kobe.
- 8, Aragonia, German str., from Portland.
- 8, Dacia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 8, Falodon Hall, British str., from Cardiff.
- 8, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 8, Hanoi, French str., from Manila.
- 8, Hanyang, British str., from Saigon.
- 8, Lydia, German str., from Wahu.
- 8, Mazagon, British str., from Bombay.
- 8, Oceana, British str., from Bombay.
- 8, Oro, British str., from Moji.
- 8, Peik, Norwegian str., from Moji.
- 8, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.

March—

DEPARTURES.

- 4, Holstein, German str., for Haiphong.
- 4, Itaura, British str., for Yokohama.
- 4, Luchs, German gunboat, for Swatow.
- 4, Sutej, British cruiser, for Singapore.
- 4, Wisconsin, U.S. battleship, for Manila.
- 5, Bayern, German str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Esang, British str., for Tientsin.
- 5, Daphne, German str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Stuttgart, German trapt., for Vladivostok.
- 5, Tungshing, British str., for Canton.
- 5, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Singapore.
- 6, Decima, German str., for Swatow.
- 6, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 6, Kaifong, British str., for Iloilo.
- 6, K-shing, British str., for Ningpo.
- 6, Oceano, British str., for Yokohama.
- 6, Recorder, British cable str., for Spore.
- 6, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 6, Tourane, French str., for Europe.
- 6, Tonkin, French str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Triumph, German str., for Canton.
- 6, Waibora, British str., for Amoy.
- 7, Changsha, British str., for Yokohama.
- 7, Empress of Japan, British str., for Vancouver.
- 7, Gera, German trapt., for Vladivostok.
- 7, Hyades, American str., for Tacoma.
- 7, Kiukiang, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 7, Kwonggang, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Mad. Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Sambia, German str., for Hamburg.
- 7, Windsor, British str., for Rangoon.
- 8, Apenrade, German str., for Huihow.
- 8, Huichow, British str., for Newchwang.
- 8, Kampot, French str., for Kwangchowwan.
- 8, Lydia, German str., for Canton.
- 8, Maidens Maru, Japanese str., for Anping.
- 8, Marie, German str., for Swatow.
- 8, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Nanchang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Palembang, Dutch str., for Palembang.
- 8, Tientsin, British str., for Singapore.
- 8, Willehad, German str., for Australia.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Zieten*, for Hongkong from Kobe, Mrs. W. Stableford, Major and Mrs. Waine and 2 daughters, Mrs. McGregor, Mrs. St. Bruce, Mrs. O. Inouye, Messrs. C. Lakuvo, M. Inouye, J. Chater, Master Chater, and Mr. U. Taguchi; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Taketo Ni and A. Hara; from Shanghai, Messrs. Daniels, Luzburg, Hinson, Fige, Mrs. Kreig, Mr. R. Schurb, Mrs. L. Park, Mr. Eberhardt, Miss v. Buren, Messrs. C. Kronig, Wirth, J. Anderson, Asano, Rev. Kunze and family, Messrs. C. Maher and S. Rosario.

Per *Bayern*, for Hongkong from Southampton, Mr. Leorold Bauersachs; from Gibraltar, Mrs. Horace Higgins and family; from Genoa, Mr. A. W. Schellhaas and family, Miss Anna Fertech, Mr. and Mrs. Nilsson, Sisters G. Fantonari, Maria Biffi, and Maria Fresca; from Naples, Messrs. P. Struckmeyer, W. O. C. Ipalknover, Mrs. C. E. Schellhorn; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Peake, Dr. W. H. Dickinson, Messrs. R. H. Moore, A. B. King, R. M. Pollok, Morris and T. Harri-on Hughes; from Penang, Messrs. G. Leon, J. A. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Cooke Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox Edge; from Singapore, Messrs. R. W. Marshalls, S. Uchigaki, Olexis Hamon, W. M. Grinnell, J. E. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Barnard, Messrs. M. M. Barnard, J. Kumazawa, Misses Manuya and Jano; for Shanghai from Bremen, Miss Paula Parpert, Messrs. Bernhard Heine, Nich. Wese-meier, Alex. Herak; from Antwerp, Miss Engelina Peeters, Mr. Erich Krupp; from Southampton, Mr. J. L. Chalmers and family, Capt. H. A. Wavell, Mrs. Wm. McLeish, Messrs. John Henderson, George Thompson, A. McG. Auld; from Genoa, Mr. J. M. S. Gubbay, Mr. and Mrs. Lindkop, Mr. Otto Strufe, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Vering, Mr. and Mrs. M. Mordukovitch, Messrs. Forum, J. H. Hintze, Fr. Loenguer, Heinrich Tiltjen; from Colombo, Mr. H. E. Sly, Mr. and Mrs. Mich. Brandt; from Penang, Mr. C. S. Betton; for Nagasaki from Genoa, Miss A. C. J. Horne; from Suez, Miss E. A. P. Sells; from Singapore, Mrs. Yamashita, Mr. and Mrs. Kimura, Mr. and Mrs. Uchida, Mr. Haraguchi; for Kobe from Singapore, Messrs. Davis, Sloan, Kubo; for Yokohama from Bremen, Mr. Josef H'oucha; from Southampton, Messrs. T. Mimoto, S. Warneck; from Genoa, Mr. Fr. von Daum, Mr. and Mrs. Selbinger, Mr. Vittoria Moratti, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hallenberg, Messrs. Chas. E. A. Kolhenbeck, Saijino Takata, Max Ketzlaff, Hans Albrecht, Ganmer; from Singapore, Messrs. S. Kanecko, H. C. Norman, Mr. and Mrs. Katoh and child, Mr. Triya.

Per *Tourane*, for Hongkong from Shanghai, Miss David, Messrs. Gint Meyer, Gillet, Akermann, Ariz, Saxon, Kent, Swenson, Mr. and Mrs. Quintas, Mrs. Joaquina de Jesus, Mrs. Armonia da Cunha, Messrs. Robb, Timbrell, Maltoli; from Yokohama, Messrs. Maitte and Takanashi; for Saigon from Shanghai, Messrs. L. Berthoz, Moosa, Dior; for Singapore from Kobe, Mr. Horiba, Miss Morishima, Mr. Obara, Miss Obara, Mr. Kitano, Misses Yabnsaka, Nakamitsu, Yamanaka, Hiroguchi, Oshimo, Iwamoto, Takeuchi, Messrs. Hadjee Hassan, Mechi, Hayashi, Mrs. Wakizaka, Messrs. Shio-sak, Nishikado, Takai, Mrs. Kawabata, Miss Segawa, Miss Yano; from Shanghai, Messrs. Thompson, Boolchind, Mrs. Otei, Mrs. Sugeno, Mrs. Matuya, Mrs. Asano, Mrs. Otshie; for Bombay from Kobe, Mr. Skido; for Port Said from Kobe, Mr. Starsky; from Shanghai, Mr. Teherman, Mrs. Hammer Civilini; for Marseilles from Yokohama, Messrs. Wenger, Jaminzvan, General and Mrs. Nadaroff, Messrs. Normand, de Lucy Focarien, Sadzuki, Goh, Schwob; from Kobe, General Selivanoff, Mr. and Mrs. Kellmann, Messrs. Levitzky, Iba, Saito, Kanokogi; from Shanghai, Messrs. Guyomard, Paris, Bertho.

Per *Tonkin*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Messrs. J. Sarwayre, Aubert; from Colombo, Capt. L. Mathews; from Singapore, Dr. J. M. Crago, Messrs. Carleton, Wilmsen, Chye Hupp and child; from Batavia, Mr. Kimura; from Saigon, Messrs. A. Waisler, Thomas Fraser, L. Falliste, Meyer, F. Bavingt n, Walt Jameson, H. Las ens, Mr. and Mrs. Ranzi and 2 children, Messrs. G. Stuart Seaton, Heauluse, A. Bender, Mrs. Gauneau, Mr. Marcel Simon, Mrs. Rene Batoni, Mrs. Sophie Lascowitz, Mr. H. Garson, Miss Marie, Miss Felina; for

Shanghai from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. de Lapeyriere, Messrs. P. Nam, S. H. Hyen, Chollet, Mrs. Morison, Mrs. de Luce, Mrs. David, Mrs. Clemenceau, Messrs. Cameyre, Vernet, Vallury, Brusseau, Paul Louis, Leon Verbert, Mrs. Figueiredo and 2 daughters, Mr. Maurice Fitzgibbon, Messrs. Rayon, Marchand, Moret, Giboutean, Ponce, Mr. and Mrs. Rachard, Mr. Mennier, Mr. and Mrs. Beetas; from Aden, Mr. Favriu Laurent; from Singapore, Miss Rosina Schwartz, Mr. Hauslender, Miss Amalia, Mr. Catsaris, Mr. Leon Barmann; from Saigon, Messrs. Hisida, Valmagia, Pricourt; for Kobe from Singapore, Messrs. Penjuichi, Y. Neiro; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. G. Morel, Journal, Chabrieres, Benstrit, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brown, Mr. A. Woskretensky; from Singapore, Mr. J. Ehrmann.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Messrs. Roberts, Mandy and Puddepha.

Per *Willehad*, from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Guinness and Miss Evans.

DEPARTED.

Per *To kin*, for Shanghai, Messrs. John, Akermann, Cabreche, A. Chopard, Finaux, and Mrs. Delaunay; for Kobe, Miss K. Kondo; for Yokohama, Mr. A. Moss, Vte. de Marsay, Messrs. Dalas, Zeodbell, James W. Price.

Per *Tourane*, for Saigon, Mr. L. E. Dumas, Mr. and Mrs. Rauzy, Mr. G. Kunetz, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Moulder; for Singapore, Mr. P. L. Knottenbelt, Dr. Brett, Messrs. C. T. Costigan, F. Bonnet, Thr. Van Citters, G. W. Howley; for Colombo, Messrs. T. A. Griffith and L. H. Deonis; for Bombay, Mr. D. B. Kavarana; for Marseilles, Messrs. H. Sutton, Lutz, N. H. Schregardus, L. de Carne, Albert Weill, R. Sarran, Soeur Rose, Mrs. Polo-Dore, Messrs. Jose d'Almeida Motta, Emile Levy, Mrs. Levy, Messrs. Pelegrim Pla and Peronaux.

DEPARTED.

Per *Willehad*, for Australia, &c., Messrs. H. J. Anderson, Ernest Attwell, Walter Baker, Maurice F. Bandmann, W. von Book, O. F. Bever, Mrs. Stewart Bruce, Messrs. J. Bruce, F. Brunette, Miss Dora Caird, Messrs. J. M. Carthy, Harry Cole, Mrs. Georgie Collas, Mr. W. A. Dowley, Miss Evans, Messrs. E. Falleiro, A. M. P. da Cruz Farias, Miss Blanche Forsythe, Mrs. McGregor, Mr. and Mrs. G. Guinness, Miss Claudia Guillot, Messrs. J. B. Gutierrez, J. P. Gutierrez, John Hackett, Miss Nattie Hayden, Messrs. Percy Haydn, Horace L. Higgins, Mrs. Carmen Higgins, Miss Carmen L. Higgins, Miss Helen L. Higgins, Miss Annie Hill, Miss Wilmot Karkeek, Miss Minnie Leslie, Messrs. Mark Lester, Stephen Lopez, J. S. Michal, Mrs. Nora Morris, Mr. Duncan Munro, Miss Yetta Nicoll, Miss Nell Pemberton, Mr. Deane Percival, Miss Elsie Probyn, Miss Madge Quest, Mr. Ernest Rees, Miss Helen Schiffmacher, Messrs. Will Smith, W. Stableford, Miss Kate Stephens, Miss Bertha Tranch, Messrs. Ernest Trimmingham, Henry Vincent, Miss Ada Vincent, Major Waine, Mrs. J. C. Waine, Miss D. Waine, Miss Waine, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Wardlaw and child, Mr. Harry Weil.

Per *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, &c., Messrs. J. L. Auld, J. Calkoen, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Phillips, Mrs. A. Gore, Miss A. R. Coward, Mr. F. R. Southern, Capt. R. M. G. Tulloch, Mr. H. W. Wicki s, Rev. C. G. G. Vandin, R. N., Col. G. A. Furze, C.B., Messrs. Y. H. Hughes, A. B. King, General Reoux, Comdr. Ducru, Lient. Snoux, Dr. W. H. Dickinson, Capt. R. L. Matthews, Earl and Countess of Leitrim, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Kofferty and child, Capt. C. Aubert, Miss Fee, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Baker, Rev. A. N. Marshall and child, Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Edge, Major W. D. Downson, Mr. G. W. Hodgson, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Stevenson, Misses Stevenson (3), Mr. J. E. Norton, Capt. Thos. Jackson, Capt. and Miss Champaign, Capt. and Mrs. F. S. Coochen, Messrs. C. S. Schulz, G. Flett, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Peake, tri-hop W. F. Oldham, Capt. J. P. Harbeson, Mr. W. M. M. Grunnell, Misses Barker (2), Messrs. E. Delewarne, P. Jousset, Misses Ferguson (2), Messrs. Alex. Samson and J. C. Neville.

Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALE for the Concerned, at 10A, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office 131, Fleet Street, E.C.